ELECTION OF DEPUTY PRESIDENT.

I have also to announce that Government have approved the election of Mr. T, K. Velu Pillai as Deputy President.

This is a non-official day : and I propose to ask Mr. Velu Pillai to undergo his baptism of fire to-day.

I want to take this opportunity of thanking members for their uniform courtesy to the Chair during the Budget Session and I am confident that they will accord to the Deputy President the same courtesy and consideration that they have accorded to me.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*) : We thank you Sir, for the very fair rulings and also for the consideration shown to the House.

PRESIDENT : Thank you.

(At this stage the President left the House and Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai took the chair.)

RESOLUTIONS ON MATTERS OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : We shall now proceed to the consideration of the resolutions. The first resolution stands in the name of Mr. Asan,

Remission of Land Revenue.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : Sir, I beg to move the following resolution:—

> *"This Assembly recommends to the Government that 50 per cent. of the land revenue due for the year 1109 be remitted and that the arrears of revenue at present due be realised without interest only with the last instalment of 1109".*

Sir, this subject is not a new one either to me or to the legislature of this country. I have moved a resolution almost similar to this in 1107 and by chance that was lost by a narrow majority of two votes. Now, this is a bigger Assembly with a larger percentage of elected non-officials and the economic depression has aggravated to a very large extent. It is in the full hope that this resolution will meet with the unanimous support of at least the non-official members that I move this resolution. I need not dwell at length on the various difficulties that the agricultural population and the land holders of this country are at present experiencing. The yield from the land has gone down considerably and the price of produce has also decreased by more than 50 per cent. It is the duty of the Government to see——

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*) : I wish to know from the member whether the yield from the land is sufficient to cover the cultivation expenses and the Sirkar taxes ?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : There are certain lands from which the yield would cover these expenses. But there are ever so many other lands from which even these could not be met. Sir,

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the Law member is impatient from the very start. That is my view of the matter. Sir, the paramount duty of the Government is to tax the peasant after ascertaining his taxable capacity. It is not the interest of Government to deprive the cultivator of all the balance that he has after meeting the cultivation expenses. When the Law Member asks me this question I beg to draw the attention of this House to a statement made by C. D. Deshmukh, the Revenue Secretary of the Government of the Central Provinces. When a question of a similar nature was raised there during the discussion of a resolution in the C. P. Legislative Council, for remitting 50 per cent of the land revenue, he said :—

> " Nor shall I make any reference to the legal position. No Government worth the name will insist on its dues being paid, hardship or no hardship, merely because there is a contractual relationship, when they are not likely to be paid over the entire course of Settlement without undue hardship".

The Government has to see whether there is hardship to the people. If the Government exists for the good of the people, they must tax the people only to the extent to which they are able to pay. Otherwise they will be depriving themselves of a source of revenue which has been maintaining them all through. In my speech at the general discussion of the Budget, I have stated that the export value of our chief products has, in the course of four years, gone down by more than 5 crores of rupees annually. To-day when I compared the balance of trade between the exports and imports, I found that between 1103 and 1107 there is a vast difference to our disadvantage. In 1103 our exports exceeded our imports by about, Rs. 3·61 crores while, in 1107, it is only Rs. 1·02 crores. That means the difference between the exports and imports has fallen down by more than Rs. 2½ crores. That means about Rs. 5 per head. This does not include the large amount of money that is being every day sent out of Travancore by a network of foreign banks. If we take into calculation that also, we will find how far our national income has gone down. The Government always say that the land owner can pay his tax from the produce. I question that very statement. There is an impression in our country, and amongst official members particularly, that our land revenue is very low. We find that the tax per acre of cultivated land in Travancore is Re. 1 annas 10 and pies 3 while that in the Central Provinces, it is Re. 1 annas 0 and pies 4 and that in Bengal, Re. 1 annas 3 and pies 6. In Central Provinces we find that only 9 per cent. of the net profit is realised as land revenue. The resolution in C. P. Legislative Council, to which I referred, wanted the Government to reduce the land revenue till the next Settlement by 50 per cent. Here we find that the land revenue from paddy lands is about 2/5 of the gross revenue. I cannot give the exact proportion with regard to the garden lands. The cultivator is given a reduction of only 2 *paras* of paddy per *para* of land as cost of seed and labour. Sir, the question has always been raised whether the land tax realised is rent or revenue. Here what I am saying is that, if the Government exists for the benefit of the people and it does not

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[Mr. A. S. Damodaran Asan.]

take the position of Shylock or that of a land-holder without any mercy or consideration for his tenants, it is the duty of the Government to give adequate relief to the people. No Government put forward a claim that land tax is rent when the people claim that it is a revenue realised from the profits. If that view is taken, then I have to say that this 50 per cent. reduction which I claim is very very moderate.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): May I know from the member, if that 50 per cent. reduction is made for all the lands, will the yield cover the expense of cultivation and Sirkar tax?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikarai*): What does the member mean by '*all lands*'.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): All lands which the member was referring to.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Even though there will be certain lands with regard to———

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): So there is some concession to the Government?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): What is the concession? It is not any concession. When the lands are not yielding sufficiently, the agriculturists want only 50 per cent. of the tax to be reduced. Well, Sir, the ryot comes and says "Sir, I am unable to pay the land revenue. The land does not yield much. Even for what it yields, there is no adequate price. Come to some relief. It is your duty that my interest must be protected, my prosperity must be your watchword and you must work for it, or else I will be ruined". Now the Law Member asks me, if the 50 per cent. would not be adequate relief, why I don't claim more. If I find that the Government is sympathetic in this I would claim more. Let me see what they are going to do with this. Sir, there is a very great difference between land revenue and other sources of income. Land revenue is direct taxation. It is inflexible.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): What is the average yield of cocoanut per acre?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Is it for the whole of the State?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The member may distribute it in various areas according as the member pleases.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): In certain areas it may be Rs. 50, in others Rs. 20, and in some cases it may be Rs. 5.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): In the area in which the yield is Rs. 15, what is the Sirkar tax?

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MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Javelikara*): It may be Rs. 5.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Will not even that cover the cultivation expenses and Sirkar tax?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): I have already stated that. I do not know how the Law member forgets that there are certain cases in which the yield will not be sufficient to cover the cultivation expenses and the Sirkar tax. But as I said, there are some cases in which the yield will be sufficient to meet those expenses.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Sir,—

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Sir, has my whole time to be taken in answering the Law Member's questions? I have shown sufficient courtesy.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): May I know whether these questions put by the Law member are indicative of the attitude of Government in this respect or whether he puts them on his own personal responsibility? I ask the question because it is a very important matter.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The questions put are relevant and so I allowed them.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): I will bring to the notice of the House one instance to show that the produce has gone down. In the P. W. D. Administration Report for 1107, I find that the income from the sale of proceeds has gone down from Rs. 24,900 in 1100 to Rs. 4,169 in 1107. That means it has gone down to about 1/6.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Is it not due to the cutting down of trees?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): If it is an open question I will answer it.

It is not an unusual thing for the people in difficulties to approach the Government to give further reductions. And if we do not ask for a larger measure of relief, it is because we are not sure whether our prayer for the greater relief would prejudice our chance of getting even these small mercies at the hands of the Government.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know whether he proposes to make a difference between the paddy lands and the garden lands with regard to the remission?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Absolutely none. I ask 50 per cent. remission of the land revenue because the yield has gone down and the price of the produce has been reduced. In the case of garden lands, they suffer owing to the attack of pests year after year. So, I do not propose to make any distinction between the paddy lands and the garden lands with regard to the remission.

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MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Is it the members' position that the yield has gone down permanently or only temporarily?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): On which kind of land?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Both paddy and garden lands.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): I think, unless our Agricultural Department shows more wisdom, the yield has gone down permanently.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Will the member advocate a re-settlement immediately?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Never.

Sir, Government appointed an Economic Depression Enquiry Committee with five distinguished officials and five nominated non-officials. What they say with regard to this remission deserves the attention of this House.

> "However, a larger number of those who gave evidence before us have stated in an unqualified manner, that the present situation calls for a partial remission of a number of taxes. We also find that in a memorial presented to the Government by a considerable number of the members of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly and certain others, the signatories have prayed for a 50 per cent. remission of land-tax and resolutions to the same effect have also been passed at various public meetings, including one held at Kottayam, in February last, presided over by one of our colleagues, Mr. S Krishna Aiyar.
>
> There is no doubt that considerable distress is felt by large sections of the people, in the matter of the payment of land-tax. This is obviously the result of the serious trade depression that prevails in the country. The people can get money only by selling their cocoanuts, paddy, pepper, and other produce, but the prices are very low and even at such low prices there is no adequate demand for the goods they have to sell.
>
> As a rule, a fall in prices depresses the taxable capacity of the community in general. All tax must be paid out of surplus, and when the surplus is reduced, taxable capacity is also reduced. Generally, the fall in taxable capacity is not in direct proportion to the fall in prices, but falls more than prices; that is, if the prices fall by one-half, the taxable capacity falls by much more than one-half. It is regrettable that we do not have index numbers of prices."

Dr. Madhavan Pillai, one of the non-official members, in his dissenting minute, says as follows:—

> "The collapse of produce prices, the heavy cost of cultivation, the pressure of population on the soil, and the needs of civilised existence have tended to the annihilation of taxable capacity, and there is, to my mind, absolutely no justification to demand from the agriculturist all his dues in full at the present time. He is really entitled to substantial relief no less as a matter of right than as an act of concession. To allow him to perish in the struggle against this 'Economic blizzard' is to undermine the foundations of economic life in this country."

Sir, I am not alone in advocating this remission. A committee recognised by the Government have admitted that such a relief is necessary. It is found that a considerable number of S. M. P. A. members had also presented a memorial asking for this relief. A number of

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meetings were held throughout the country. About two years have passed after all these and the depression has been aggravated by more than cent per cent. If the Government do not immediately grant the relief asked for, I think they will be losing the opportunity of serving the country by showing sufficient foresight and magnanimity.

The next part of the resolution says that the balance of the amount due for 1108 may be realised with the last instalment of 1109 without interest. Of course, no fresh arguments are necessary to support that ground. This matter has also been supported by a majority of this House. So I am sure that my proposition will not be opposed even by the Government because they have had sufficient time after hearing the views of the non-official side of the House to consider it and come to a conclusion. With these words, I move the resolution for the consideration of this House

* MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): സർ, മി. ദാമോദരൻ ആശാൻ ഇവിടെ അവതരിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള പ്രമേയത്തോട് ഞാൻ പൂർണ്ണമായി യോജിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു. എന്നാൽ മി. ആശാൻ പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതിൽ കൂടുതലായിട്ട് പറയാനുള്ളതുമാത്രമെ ഞാൻ ഇവിടെ പറയണമെന്നുദ്ദേശിക്കുന്നുള്ളൂ. ൧൯൦൯-ലെ ലാൻഡു റവന്യൂഡിപ്പാർമെൻറു Administration Report-ൽ ൧൫, ൧൦, ൪൭ ഖണ്ഡികകൾ കരമിളവു നൽകിയിട്ടുള്ളതായി കാണുന്നുണ്ട്. ആ റിപ്പോർട്ടിൻെറ രണ്ടാംവശത്തുവിവരിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതു പറവൂർ താലൂക്കിൽ വെള്ളപ്പൊക്കമുണ്ടായതിനാലാണ് ഇത്രയും സംഖ്യകരമിളവുചെയ്തു കൊടുത്തിട്ടുള്ളതെന്നാണ്. അതായതു ആതാലൂക്കിൽ അസാധാരണമായവിധത്തിൽ വെള്ളപ്പൊക്കമുണ്ടായപ്പോൾ ഗവണ്മെൻറിൽനിന്നും ഗണ്യമായ ഒരു സംഖ്യ കരത്തിൽ ഇളവു ചെയ്തുകൊടുത്തു. കരമായിട്ടുകൊടുക്കുന്നസംഖ്യ ഗവണ്മെൻറും ജനങ്ങളുമായുണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ള ഒരു കരാറനുസരിച്ചാണ് എന്നു വിചാരിക്കുന്നപക്ഷവും ജനങ്ങൾക്കു സങ്കടമുണ്ടാവുകയും യഥാർത്ഥത്തിൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറിൻെറ സഹായം ആവശ്യമായിവരികയും ചെയ്യുന്ന അവസരങ്ങളിൽ ജനങ്ങൾക്കുവേണ്ട സഹായം ചെയ്തുകൊടുക്കുന്ന ഒരു നയം ഗവണ്മെൻറു സ്വീകരിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട് എന്നുള്ളതു ഗവണ്മെൻറിൻെറ പ്രവൃത്തികളിൽനിന്നുതന്നെ വ്യക്തമാകുന്നുണ്ട്. ഈ രാജകീയവിളംബരമനുസരിച്ചു കണ്ടുകൃഷിവസ്തുക്കളിന്മേലുള്ള കരത്തിൻെറ കമ്മ്യൂട്ടേഷൻറേറാ ആറു പണമായിരിക്കെ സാമ്പത്തികാധഃപതനം നിമിത്തമുള്ള കഷ്ടതകളെ പരിഗണിച്ചു രാജകീയവിളംബരത്തിലെ വ്യവസ്ഥയിൽനിന്നും ൫൦ ശതമാ

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[Mr. T. P. Velayudhan Pillai.]

നം കുറച്ച മൂന്നുപണം റേറു നിശ്ചയിച്ചു. ഇതിൽനിന്നും കരംകൊടുക്കുന്ന വിഷയത്തിൽ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു സങ്കടമുണ്ടാകുമ്പോൾ അവയെ പരിഹരിക്കാൻ ഗവണ്മെൻറു ശ്രമിക്കുന്നുണ്ടെന്നു കാണുന്നുണ്ട്. ഇതിനുംപുറമേ, കഴിഞ്ഞകൊല്ലത്തിൽ കരംകൊടുക്കുന്നതിനുള്ളകാലാവധി ഗവണ്മെൻറിൽനിന്നും കുറെ നീട്ടിക്കൊടുത്തു. തന്നിമിത്തം ഉദ്ദേശം 14 ലക്ഷം രൂപായോളം ജനങ്ങൾ വരുന്നകൊല്ലത്തിൽ കൊടുത്തുതീർക്കേണ്ടതായിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു ബഡ്ജറിൻെറ ൻ-ാം വശത്തു നിന്നും കാണുന്നുണ്ട്. ഫ ഫ o ൻ-ലെ കരത്തിനുംപുറമെ മുന്നാണ്ടുകരംകൂടി കൊടുക്കേണ്ടി വന്നിരിക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടുള്ള ഒരു സങ്കടകരമായ അവസ്ഥയാണെന്നു പറയാതെതരമില്ല.

ഇനി എനിക്കു പറയുവാനുള്ളതു കരത്തിൻെറ തോതിനെപ്പറ്റിയാണ്. പട്ടയത്തിൽ വിവരിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന സംഖ്യയാണ് ഇപ്പോൾകരമായി കൊടുക്കേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നതു. ഈകരം നിശ്ചയിച്ചസമയത്തിൽ മദ്ധ്യതിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ ഒരുപറനെല്ലിനു ഫ ഫ ചക്രമാണ് വച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതു്.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): അതു മുട്ടപറയ്ക്കാ കല്ലുർക്കാടൻ പറയ്ക്കാ?

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*) : പതിനാഴിപറയ്ക്കാണ്.

ഇങ്ങനെ പറയുന്ന ഫ ഫ ചക്രം വീതം വിലവച്ചു കരംനിശ്ചയിച്ചുവെങ്കിലും ഇപ്പോൾ പറയുന്ന ൻ ചക്രത്തിൽ കൂടുതൽ കിട്ടുന്നില്ല. അതായതുകരം നിശ്ചയിച്ചകാലത്തുള്ള വിലയേക്കാൾ ഇപ്പോൾ നെല്ലിൻെറ വില വളരെ കുറഞ്ഞുപോയിരിക്കുന്നു.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*) : കരം നിശ്ചയിച്ചകാലത്തു നെല്ലിനു എന്തുവിലയുണ്ടായിരുന്നു എന്നു പറയാമോ?

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla I*): നാലിൽമൂന്നും, നാലിൽഒന്നും വിലക്രമീ ശരാശരി കണക്കെടുക്കുമ്പോൾ പറയുന്ന ഫ ഫ ചക്രംവീതം അതുകുന്നുണ്ട്. കണ്ടുകൃഷി കരത്തെസംബന്ധിച്ചു ഗവണ്മെൻറു അനുവർത്തിച്ചുവരുന്ന ന്യായം സർക്കാർ കരത്തെസംബന്ധിച്ചും അനുവർത്തിക്കാതിരിക്കുന്നതു ഒട്ടും ശരിയായിട്ടുള്ളതല്ല.

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MR T. P. RAMASUBA AIYAR (*Nominated*): Does the member know that the average of these two figures comes to about 8½ chackrams per para ?

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായത്തിൽ ഫ ഫ ചക്രം വരുന്നു എന്നാണു'.

ഇനി ഒരു സംഗതി എനിയ്ക്കു പറയാനുള്ളതു് കരാറിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചാണു്. ഏതു കരാറായാലും ഏതു നിയമമായാലും *Vis Major* എന്നുള്ളതു അനുവദിക്കപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുള്ളതാണു്. ഇന്നു നാടൊട്ടുക്കു ബാധിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള അധഃപതനം ദൈവീകമായ ഒരു സംഭവമെന്നല്ലാതെ മറെറാന്നും തന്നെ പറയുവാനില്ല. മനുഷ്യ പ്രയത്നംകൊണ്ടു അതു പരിഹരിക്കപ്പെടാവുന്നതുമല്ല. അതിനാൽ *Vis Major* എന്നുള്ള കാരണംകൊണ്ടു ഗവണ്മെന്റിൽനിന്നുംതന്നെ ഇതിലേക്കു പരിഹാരമുണ്ടാക്കണം. ഭൂനികുതിയിൽ ഇ ര ശതമാനം കുറക്കണോ എന്നുള്ള സംഗതി ഞാൻ ഗവണ്മെന്റിന്റെ ദയാദൃഷ്ടിക്കുതന്നെ വിട്ടുകൊടുക്കുന്നു. എന്നാൽ ന്യായമായ ഒരു ശതമാനം കുറക്കേണ്ടതാണെന്നു തീർച്ചയായി പറയാം.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): Sir, I rise to move the amendment that I have given notice of. The amendment is to substitute '25 per cent' for "50 per cent". The amendment, as incorporated in the resolution will read like this! "This Assembly recommends to the Government that 25 per cent of the land revenue due for the year 1109 be remitted" etc.,

Sir, I take it that the House has previously accepted.—

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*): സർ, എനിക്കൊരു പായിൻറ് ആഫ് ആർഡർഉണ്ടു്. ഒരു പ്രമേയം അവതരിപ്പിച്ചു കഴിഞ്ഞ ഉടനെതന്നെ അതിലേക്കുള്ള ഭേദഗതിയും അവതരിപ്പിക്കേണ്ടതല്ലേ? പ്രമേയം അവതരിപ്പിക്കയും അതിനെ പിൻതാങ്ങുകയും ചെയ്തശേഷം ഭേദഗതി അവതരിപ്പിക്കുന്നതു ശരിയാണോ?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The rules allow Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai's amendment.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): The House virtually accepted the principle of the resolution as amended by me. Sir, nobody can at this late hour question the fact that the country is passing through an unprecedented economic stress. There is no use of putting

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[Mr. K. Kunjukrishna Pillai]

questions with the purpose of controverting the argument that the ryot in Travancore stands in need of immediate relief. That fact cannot be denied. I do not think even Government Benches will try to make out a point by technicalities that the ryot is not in need of instant relief. That fact has been admitted by the Economic Depression Enquiry Committee. They were trying to find out ways and means of giving relief to the ryot. I venture to make the statement that the economic situation, so far as the ryots of Travancore are concerned, has gone from bad to worse since the Committee to enquire into the depression submitted its report. The recent abnormal rainfall and the floods and the damages caused to crops and cultivable lands and the further fall in prices of agricultural produce, together with the exhaustion of resources which might have existed at the time when the economic depression just set in has aggravated and accentuated the situation considerably.

Even if it could have been argued at the time when the Economic Depression Enquiry Committee was submitting its report that the situation has not arisen to necessitate remission of taxes, it cannot now with propriety be urged that a remission of tax is not needed. Sir, it was asked by the Law Member whether the yield of the land is not sufficient to meet the cost of cultivation. It has been shown by the Banking Enquiry Committee and the Economic Depression Enquiry Committee, as clearly as it could be, that the ryot in Travancore, the agriculturist in Travancore, is living on the very margin of subsistence. It has been shown that in the two principal areas, Nanjinad and Kuttanad, the margin of profit is very scanty, nay, it is less than that, and these ryots are in imminent danger of leaving their lands to lie fallow But I do not agree with the proposition however necessary it might be that a 50 per cent. reduction is justifiable to ask from Government. We do realise that land revenue is the one permanent source of income with which Government has to carry on its legitimate duties for the governed. We do concede that in a period of economic depression, all indirect taxes that are elastic will undergo a considerable fall automatically and Government have to subsist on this inelastic and direct source of revenue *viz.*, the land revenue. But Government also ought to know that the agriculturist is the backbone of the country. It is in the continuance and prosperity of the agriculturist the greatest reserve of government resource rests and not in the so called treasury resources of Government. If Government concede the point that there is a very acute economic depression in the country, Government ought to be prepared to reduce the land tax by 25 per cent. After all what does it come to if 25 per cent. is remitted in land tax? I find from the budget figures that the current *ayacut* accounts come to Rs. 32 lakhs. 25 per cent. of that will be about 8 lakhs of rupees reduced from the land tax. I think that if Rs. 8 lakhs is reduced that will be a subs-

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tantial relief and the relief which Government can legitimately afford to give to the ryot. It is a very modest proposal that I place for the acceptance of Government. It is not a proposal made in a bargaining spirit to ask for Rs 100 with a view to get Rs. 25. It is not like that. Realising the position of Government, realising the responsibilities of Government, realising the difficulties of the ryots who are undergoing acute distress and realising the need that is most urgent and which the ryot cannot afford to forego, I think a margin of 25 per cent. reduction of land tax is very reasonable. The Government have also in a way accepted this 25 per cent. with regard to Nanjinad. If to Nanjinad, why not in other parts of Travancore where cultivators are not getting a better income from their agricultural produce than the people of Nanjinad? By that, I should not be understood as grudging the reduction given to the Nanjinad people. Far from it. But I want to bring home to Government that the people who cultivate lands which are less fertile who get a lesser yield, whose margin of profit is lesser, are certainly entitled to reduction as the people of Nanjinad. If the Government thought it a reasonable and just figure in Nanjinad, I do not know what argument possibly they could advance for not reducing the land tax for the rest of Travancore. Eight lakhs of rupees is not a sum which the Government of Travancore need be afraid of. I do not think they should stagger at this figure. For Government it is only a flea-bite. The Financial Secretary has assured this House that our financial position is "absolutely sound". I quote his own words. Under the circumstances, if the financial position of Government is absolutely sound and that of the ordinary ryot absolutely unsound and topsy-turvey, I ask Government to come to the help of the agriculturist in this time of dire need. Government should take a long vision in this matter and come to the legitimate and moderate help which the ryot is seeking from Government. The point that has been brought by my friend Mr. T. P. Velayudhan Pillai is worthy of consideration by Government. They gave a reduction of 50 per cent. in regard to the commutation rate of Kandukrishi tax and that is a way of conceding the point. It is from the agricultural produce, money for paying taxes has to come. But the price of agricultural products is very low. So, automatically, we come to the irresistible conclusion that the remission of taxes is what is needed. Also, coming to the Economic Depression Enquiry Committee's statement, it is stated, that the taxable capacity of the citizen is reduced not in proportion to the fall in commodity prices, but it is reduced by a much higher percentage. If the percentage of the price of paddy and other produce are decreased by 40 per cent., the taxable capacity of the agriculturist is reduced by a much higher percentage. That has been accepted. That theory has been accepted by Government. At this time of depression, after the arguments and facts as is seen and witnessed daily in the country, if the Government are not moved to grant a remission of this moderate nature, I do not think words of mine will be able to convince them

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Mr. K. Kunjukrishna Pillai.]

So I do not propose to waste the time of the House by trying to convince Government and the Government Benches by any more arguments. I ask them and request them to consider the situation with a long vision and show a gesture by way of giving some relief to the agriculturists. It may be very little or very scanty; all that it can do is to give this scanty relief, moderate relief, that is asked for after seeing the actual situation of the country. I do not propose to bring in more arguments or technical points for the acceptance of this by Government. I think this Government will always have the interest of the agriculturists at heart. In its own interests, I do believe that the Government will certainly give this remission and show their sympathy towards the ryots in their time of dire need. With these words, I move this amendment for the acceptance of the House.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): Sir, I support Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai's amendment motion. I do not see any reason whatsoever why Government should fight shy of the question at issue. It is seen that proposals brought from this side of the House are not interpreted by the official members as favourably and justly as they ought to be. After all, as Mr. K. Kunjukrishna Pillai said, the reduction of land revenue will come to about 8 lakhs of rupees. That need not at all be viewed with alarm by the Government. At present there are greater falls under receipts in many other branches of administration. For instance there is a good percentage of reduction under salt and that is not viewed with so much surprise as this. As Mr. K. Kunjukrishna Pillai said, Government should view this question with a broader vision. It is well-known that land revenue alone is the direct taxation in the country. Government think that they have to bow down to certain conventions and that they cannot break away from them ordinarily. They must adhere to them and they cannot divest their statesmanship from them. From 1102 till today there has been a steady decline under receipts in land revenue. In view of so many facts brought to light by committees and individuals, it is clear that there cannot be any increase in land revenue in future. There are falls under Excise, Income-tax, Forest, etc. There is absolutely no reason why Government should continue to persist that the ryot, the agriculturist of the country, has to pay the revenue fixed, no matter what his income is. He is declared to be the most miserable creature. The chronic indebtedness of the agriculturist of Travancore has been a very notorious fact. It has been painted in adequate colours by the Banking Enquiry Committee. It comes to about 25 crores of rupees or so and that works at Rs. 65 per head. The remission now asked for is only a very small concession in favour of the agriculturist. If the Government feel convinced of the necessity and take courage, they will be only adopting a wise course. I am sure the Government will absolutely have no objection whatsoever in allowing this concession asked for from this side of the House. The Government and non-official members are proceeding upon agreed data. They admit certain

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facts, *viz*, that the agriculturists are suffering very much; they cannot find sufficient money for cultivation; this is a time of acute depression; and that the poor ryots stand in need of relief from Government. All these are indisputable facts and are admitted both by the Government and the non-officials.

The only factor that remains is whether the Government will agree to leave off their orthodox attitude and practice and come to the rescue of the agriculturist, who forms the backbone of the country, and forego a small portion of their revenue, which portion they can make up by some other means.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The House may consider the resolution and the amendments together.

[Mr. E. V. Krishna Pillai sat down. Mr. Chidambaram Pillai and Mr. C. V. Kunjuraman stood up at the same time. Then, Mr. Chidambaram Pillai also sat down.]

MR. C. V. KUNJURAMAN (*Nominated*): യഥാർത്ഥ കൃഷിക്കാർക്ക മാത്രം —

MR A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): ഉറച്ചു പറഞ്ഞാൽ കൊള്ളാം.

MR. C. V. KUNJURAMAN (*Nominated*): യഥാത്ഥ കൃഷിക്കാക്കുമാത്രം കരം. —

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*): കുറെ കൂടി ഉറക്കെപ്പറഞ്ഞാൽ കൊള്ളാം.

MR. C. V. KUNJURAMAN (*Nominated*): യഥാത്ഥകൃഷിക്കാരായ ആളുകൾക്കുമാത്രം കരം കുറച്ചുകൊടുത്താൽമതിയോ, അതല്ല വസ്തു ഉടമസ്ഥന്മാർക്കു പാട്ടക്കാർ കൊടുക്കുന്ന പാട്ടസംഖ്യയും കുറച്ചു കൊടുക്കണമെന്നുകൂടി അഭിപ്രായമുണ്ടോ?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): കൃഷിക്കാർ എന്നു പറയുന്നവർ വേല ചെയ്യുന്നവരാണോ?

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): സ്വന്ത ഭൂമിപാട്ടംകൊടുത്തു പാട്ടം മേടിക്കുന്നവക്ക് പാട്ടം കൊടുക്കുന്ന സംഖ്യ കുറയ്ക്കണമെന്നില്ല എന്നാണ്. എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Is it only a question, Sir?

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): Who is in possession of the House, Sir, Mr. Kunjuraman or Mr. Krishna Pillai?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order, please, Mr. Thanu Pillai. Mr. Krishna Pillai may put his question to Mr. Kunjuraman.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): Who is in possession of the House, Sir?

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DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Mr. Kunjuraman is speaking and Mr. E. V. Krishna Pillai wants to put a question.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*) I think it is just the other way.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Nominated*) : It is just the other way, Sir.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Mr. E. V. Krishna Pillai had, I thought finished his speech. When Mr. Kunjuraman was in possession of the House, Mr. E. V. Krishna Pillai got up, and, presumably, I thought he wanted to ask a question.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*) : That is not how we understood the position, Sir.

MR. C. V. KUNJURAMAN (*Nominated*) : ഞാൻ ഒരു ചൊല്ലും മറ ച്ചുതേ ഒള്ളൂ.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*) : May I know who was right, Sir ? I was right, Sir, and I was ruled out of order, Sir.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Mr. Krishna Pillai sat down, and, after he sat down, I thought, Mr. Kunjuraman got up. Naturally, I thought that Mr. Krishna Pillai had finished his speech and that Mr. Kunjuraman had begun his speech. Nodody is infallible ; and, in these matters, there must be give and take, especially when inferences have to be made from the silence of particular members.

The position is that Mr. E. V. Krishna Pillai is in possession of the House and is continuing his speech.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*) : I shall explain the position which caused some confusion here. During the course of my speech, Mr. Kunjuraman stood up to ask a question. In accordance with the rules and practice here, which say that not more than one should be standing at a time, I sat down as soon as I saw Mr. Kunjuraman standing.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : That is all right : you may proceed.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*) ? Mr. Kunjuraman asked me whether the concession, now recommended by the resolution, may be extended to those land-owners who have leased out their lands and are getting income from their lands indirectly through the lessees and at the expense of the lessees who do the actual cultivation of the land. I think the land-owner has been hit hard by the present economic depression whether he himself cultivates the land or is enjoying the fruits of cultivation through intermediaries to whom he has leased out his lands for cultivation ; because the price of commodities has gone down and with that the lease amount also. There is, therefore, absolutely no reason why any distinction should be made between the land-owner and the lessee-cultivator.

MR. C. V. KUNJURAMAN (*Nominated*) : വളരെകാലമായി ഭൂമിവാ രിൽപതിച്ചു അവരോ മറ്റുള്ളവരോ ആ വക ഭൂമികളിൽ കൃഷിചെ യ്യാൻ സമ്മതിക്കാതെയിരിക്കുന്നവക്കു കരം കുറവുചെയ്തു കൊടുക്കണോ?

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MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*) : I believe penal taxation against people who do not cultivate their lands, was urged in this House by Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai himself, if I remember right. My submission is that that is not within the purview of the resolution now before the House.

MR. C. V. KUNJURAMAN (*Nominated*) : അങ്ങിനെയുള്ളവരോടുകൂടി രേഖപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതിൽ വിരോധമുണ്ടോ?

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): I have absolutely no objection.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): I beg to rise to a point of order. All the confusion that arose just a while ago was due to the fact that, when Mr. Kunjuraman stood up, Mr. Krishna Pillai sat down as though he had finished his speech.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : There was no confusion at all.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): I want to have a ruling, Sir, as to whether the member in possession of the House should sit down any time before he has actually finished his speech, merely because any other member has stood up for the purpose of asking a question. If it is ruled that the member in possession need sit down only when he has finished his speech, that would save the kind of confusion that we had some time back.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : The right course is that only one member should be standing in the House at a time; therefore, the moment another member stands up, be it for putting a question, the member in possession must sit down.

MR. P. CHIDAMBARAM PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): Sir, the taxing department of the State is hopelessly at sea when it comes to the question of direct taxation. It has no policy before it, as it had no policy behind it. When I moved for the abolition of income tax, the Income Tax Commissioner put forward the plea that that tax is imposed only on those who are able to pay, those who are able to bear the burden. I accepted the soundness of that argument, because that tax is imposed only upon those people who get incomes of Rs. 2,000 and more per annum. Now, what I ask the Land Revenue Commissioner is, 'why does he not introduce the same logic when it comes to land tax? Why does he not adopt the principle of taxing such landowners as are able to pay the tax?" If you want, for historical reasons, you may reduce the minimum taxable income from Rs. 2,000 as in the case for income tax to Rs. 200 for agricultural income in the case of land tax; that is to say, do not tax people who get less than Rs. 200 per annum from their lands. That is certainly a sound policy which ought to be pursued by any Government which has the welfare of the people at heart, especially the welfare of the agriculturists. I hope, Sir, the Settlement Memorandum will run on some such reasonable basis and not adopt the basis of taxation which was the fashion in the days of Akbar the Great and Raja Todar Mall. It was pointed out by the

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[Mr. P. Chidambaram Pillai.]

late Dewan Bahadur S. Srinivasaraghava Aiyangar, in his "Memorandum on the progress of the Madras Presidency during the last forty years of British Administration", a standard book on the subject of land tenures, published in 1893:

> "A sudden and great reduction of incomes must, however, paralyse energy and bring discontent and despair; and when a large portion of the population is subjected to this operation, its injurious consequences can be readily conceived. A landholder's income which has been, say, Rs. 2,000, Rs. 500, Rs. 100 for 30 years, may, without causing permanent hardship be reduced perhaps to Rs. 1,500, Rs. 450, and Rs. 90 respectively by taxation. The deficiency in the income which is not much in excess of what one must be prepared for in the natural course of things, whether caused by changes in the price of commodities or in the value of money, may be met by effecting little economics in various directions and may even act as incentive to exertion without compelling the persons affected to forego substantial comforts and conveniences. If the income be suddenly reduced to Rs. 1,020,"

(that is in the case of persons who were getting Rs. 2,000 per annum,)

> "Rs. 250, and Rs. 50, not in individual cases but in the case of the majority of the population which derives its substance from land, whether in the capacity of landlords and rent receivers, farmers or agricultural labourers, the result cannot but be a great blow to the growing prosperity of the country."

Now, Sir, it is seen from the Report of the Economic Depression Enquiry Committee, in paragraph 82,

> "At present the price of paddy is in the neighbourhood of Rs. 5 per *kotta*."

And, that was at the time the Report was submitted; now, I submit, it is much less; it is about Rs. 4-2as. per *kotta*.

> "At this rate, the gross annual income from an acre, including Rs. 10, the value of straw, is Rs. 130 only. The cost of cultivation and the tax remaining the same, the net annual income dwindles down to Rs. 20 per acre."

It is much less than even Rs. 20, Sir, at the present moment. Therefore, if you adopt "the ability to pay" as the basis of taxation, all persons owning less than 10 acres of land may be relieved of land tax. At any rate, whatever be the method adopted to make the land tax proportionate to the cut proposed, 25 per cent as suggested by Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai, must be reduced from the total land tax. Therefore I support the resolution as amended by Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): We have a resolution for a cut of 50 per cent. in the land tax, as well as an amendment for a cut of only 25 per cent. I support the amendment moved by Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai.

Sir, that some relief is urgently needed for the agriculturists of the country will not admit of any doubt whatsoever. On a prior occasion, when we were discussing cut motions under the Land Revenue Demand, this House has given its opinion that some such relief as is now suggested must be given. Sir, these are extraordinary times; and extraordinary times call for extraordinary relief. The Law Officers of Government will take shelter behind legal quibbles. The question as to whether the tax paid by the people is rent or revenue cannot be

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finally settled unless we refer to the history of land tenures and the history of Travancore. But, whether land tax is rent or revenue, whatever be the point of view, for our consideration of the question there cannot be any difference of opinion as to the urgent need for relief. Let us take it for argument's sake that tax is rent. I submit, that is no argument why the agriculturist should be compelled to pay it out of his pocket in these days when he is not able to get even the cost of cultivation out of the yield from the land. There is not one landlord in the country who does not remit a portion of the rent due to him from the tenant. Therefore, even if tax is treated as rent, Government, the biggest landlord in the State, are bound, in fairness, to forego a portion of their dues in favour of the tax-payer.

We will take it that it is not rent but that it is revenue. If that is the case, then it is a matter of Royal Prerogative. By virtue of the prerogative of the Sovereign, the Government, in the interests of the subject, have to order a remission like this. We know, Sir, that in the history of Travancore in extraordinary times like these, Sovereigns used to command a remission of tax to relieve the distress of the people by giving what is called *karamitavu* in times of urgent necessity. Such being the case, as I observed at the very outset, these are extraordinary times. In agricultural economics, the most important thing to be considered is what is called the margin of profit. In agriculture we have to view it just like any other industry. There is what is called the cost of production. With regard to lands there is what is called the rent or the revenue that is due to Government. Then there is what is called the margin of profit. Considering the present economic depression, and also considering the fall in prices, we have to see whether there is any margin of profit for the agriculturists. I submit that the whole of the margin of profit is completely wiped off and it is the duty of the Government, a Government that is considering the prosperity and well-being of the subjects, and I hope every wise Government will do it, to order its affairs accordingly. Such a Government will certainly, in times of depression like these, order a remission of tax and give some relief to the suffering agriculturists. I would also observe that both wise statemanship and sound finance require that some such remission is absolutely necessary. Therefore, I support the amendment brought forward by Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Sir, I support the motion as amended by Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai. It is an admitted fact, Sir, the agriculturists of the State are in a pitiable condition and the responsibility for bringing them down to their present hopeless condition depends upon the Government as well as upon nature. Sir, it is due to the apathy on the part of Government to look after the interests of the agriculturists in the State for the last so many years, in not looking after their irrigations, in not allowing sufficient money for agricultural loans and such other purposes, in not giving them easy means of communication to improve their conditions, the Government have done a

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[Mr. S. J. Nair.]

good lot to reduce the condition of the agriculturists in the State to their present pitiable position. Also as a result of the recent floods, their crops have been destroyed, their houses have been washed away in very many places and their condition has become most pitiable. Sir, it has been asked from the Government side whether re-settlement would not be a remedy for this purpose, Sir, if strangulation would be a remedy in the case of an ailing patient, then certainly re-settlement will be the remedy to better the condition of the agriculturists. We wonder, Sir, why the Government have not taken up the initiative in the matter of remission of tax before we brought this matter to the notice of the authorities concerned by this resolution and by some other means. Anyhow, in the interests of Government as well as the people, because the Government in our land exist for the people and we the people exist for the Government, I say, for our mutual interests, Sir, it is highly necessary that at least 25 per cent. reduction in the land tax ought to be given.

MR. A S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Has the member any objection if 50 per cent. reduction is given ?

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : I have no objection to it. But there is this point to be considered. We, the representatives of the people, I mean the members of this House, have once unanimously agreed in this Session itself that 25 per cent of the land tax ought to be reduced and hence we cannot go behind that. So I support the amendment.

MR. K. MAHOMED (*Alwaye*) : Sir, in supporting this amendment, I wish to bring to the notice of the Government one fact—that is this remission of land revenue must be made applicable to the Edavagai also. Otherwise, our neighbours will be enjoying all sorts of concessions and remission while we will be getting nothing at all.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Which Edavagai ?

MR. K. MAHOMED (*Alwaye*) : The Edavagai of Edapalli, consisting of five *pakuthies* and inhabited by nearly 80,000 people. Formerly it was the case that when land revenue concession was given, it was not extended to us also. So, I request the Government to be sympathetic in their attitude and extend to us also the same concessions and remissions that are given to our neighbours.

MR. A. EASWARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam II*) : Sir, I support the amendment before the House. In doing so, I wish to bring to the notice of Government that the people, especially the agriculturists of this country, are groaning under heavy taxation. As has been pointed out by the non-official members, this is an extraordinary time during which the agriculturists wish for concession from the Government in regard to land tax. If this 25 per cent. of remission is not granted as of right, I wish at least that out of charity this remission may be granted, for "Charity is Our household Divinity" is the motto in this State.

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MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*) : Sir I beg to offer a few remarks on the motion brought before the House. Having been an officer myself for a long time, accustomed to collecting Government dues, the resolution as it stands does not accord with my sense of responsibility, especially as this is one of a sweeping character.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*) : May I know whether the member was collecting land revenue or excise revenue ?

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*) : I only said ' revenue.'

MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade II*) : Is he supporting or opposing the motion ?

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*) : I oppose the motion. There are lands the income from which is sufficient to meet the cost of cultivation and also to meet the Government demand.

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Changanachery I*) : Is the income from such lands sufficient to pay tax and to meet cultivation expenses or is it something more than that ?

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*) : Something more, some balance is left. There is a large number of land owners who derive income for their buildings in towns.

MR. M. N. NAIR (*Kottayam I*) : May I know whether the member is aware that there is a special tax on income from rent ?

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*) : Yes. There is a large number of land owners whose income is not taxed if the income is below Rs. 2,000. The income is only taxed when it exceeds a certain amount.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*) : Sir, on a point of order. The member is talking to individual members and we are not able to follow the discussion.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : He was not talking to individual members, but was only turning round to make himself more audible. Please talk a little louder, Mr. Nilakantan.

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*) : I am of opinion that, if remission should be given at all, it should be given to those people who are actually suffering.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : The member said that land revenue is only paid by certain persons who receive a larger income than Rs. 2,000.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Is that a question you are asking, Mr. Asan?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : Yes, Sir. I am asking whether there is any rule by which a person need pay land revenue only if he gets above a certain minimum.

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*) : No.

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*) : മെമ്പർക്ക് കൃഷിജോലി പരിചയമുണ്ടോ ?

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*) : കൊച്ചുണ്ട്.

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DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I should think that the question of the knowledge of a member in regard to matters of agriculture does not arise. If any information is wanted of him about agriculture, that is a different matter.

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): Sir, the universal remission of tax will benefit those people also who do not suffer. Therefore, I do not support a motion of this universal kind. In cases where people have suffered, the Government have provided rules whereby remission of tax may be made.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): May I know from the member whether the Remission Rules in Travancore would benefit people who suffer on account of floods and other things?

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): I think so. I think the Government do remit tax in cases of real hardship.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Are there any rules for that?

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): I am not aware of any rules, but I know that Government have remitted tax where there is a failure of crops.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): Sir, the member referred to certain rules. We are not aware of those rules. May I know whether the member is in the confidence of Government—

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The rule is that when the Chair rises to speak, the other members sit down. Does Mr. Narayana Pillai want to put a question?

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): Yes.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Please ask the question.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): The member in the course of his speech referred to certain rules and when questioned he is not prepared to disclose these rules. I want to know whether the member is in the special confidence of Government.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I do not allow that question. You may proceed, Mr. Nilakantan.

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): Sir, since this resolution helps those people who have not actually suffered, I oppose the motion.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Who are the people that have not actually suffered?

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): For instance, owners of dry lands.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): What is the kind of produce to be obtained from dry lands?

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): Cocoanut and other things

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Does the member say that the price of cocoanut has not gone down?

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MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): It has gone down.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): By what percentage?

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): By about 50 per cent.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Does the member believe the Report of the Economic Depression Enquiry Committee?

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): I believe in actual experience.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): May I know what was the price? May I know the price at which he was selling cocoanut four years back?

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): Five rupees per hundred.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): What is the present price?

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): A little over Rs. 2.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): So what is the percentage of reduction?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The answer to that question is obvious.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): Does the member know that there are certain lands which are allowed to lie fallow because cultivation is not paying?

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): Yes.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Sir, I was in a difficulty to choose my position either to support the resolution of my friend Mr. Asan or to support the amendment of Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai. At any rate after my friend Mr. Nilakantan stood up to speak a few words and spoke, I resolved myself not to take up the position of Mr. Nilakantan as he appeared to be rather not very attractive, but to support the very modest demand of my friend Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai. But no one will be more glad than myself if Government were gracious enough to stretch a helping hand to the poor suffering agriculturists, with full remission for a few years.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): According to the member which is the reasonable figure, 25 or 50 per cent?

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): If Government will look with sympathy at the question of helping the paddy cultivators for some years to come, till the economic depression completely disappears from the land, it will be really a grace on the part of the —

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I am not speaking of grace. Which is the reasonable figure according to the member, having regard to all the circumstances?

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): It varies with the variety of persons. According to the Treasury Benches, it may take a downward course, while, according to the members on this side, it may take an upward course.

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MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): What is it according to the member?

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): If left to myself I will wipe out the whole land revenue, at least for the time being, because I consider that agriculturists are the real backbone of the country; and the agricultural condition of our people is at a very low ebb.

With full sense of responsibility I ask members on this side of the House to realise that Nanjinad, the so-called granary of Travancore, is no more worth the name. Some two months ago 25% remission was given to the *ayacut* lands in Nanjinad for Kumbham *kist* this year. I saw in one paper an open attack by an ex-member of the Legislative Council. In that article he said that Government thought it fit to remit the land tax to the extent of 25 % because a large area of the land there was owned by Government officers.

The history of the remission of land tax is as follows. The lands in Nanjinad are classified into four divisions. One is *Ayacut* lands. *Padarapattam* lands consist of two kinds of lands, one tank bed conversions and *Thoram* lands and the last, *puduval* conversions. The remission of 25 per cent. was given only to the *ayacut* lands and that only on Government tax. Now there are two kinds of taxes. One is Government tax and the other *thoram*. There was very great difficulty to carry conviction to the Government. The Dewan came there and held a local enquiry. Government were very reluctant to allow remission with reference to *thoram* lands. *Thoram* lands may easily be brought under that classification as *ayacut* lands, as they also suffered equally with the latter I do not know what difficulties stood in the way of Government to treat both alike. The Dewan Peishkar raised the difficulty that the *thoram* lands stood entirely on a different footing from the *jenmom* lands. Either from the low produce or the damage to crops or the sale price of paddy these two lands stood on the same footing. But Government were not prepared to accept that position. Tank bed lands were obtained by converting tank beds into cultivable lands after they were put in auction. With regard to these lands, Government argued that when these lands were put to auction the bidders knew that these lands are divided into three categories and each *tharam* is to be levied and paid at varying rates of Rs. 36, 26 and less and because they willingly entered into such an agreement to pay they have no right for a reduction in the rates. I do not think that such an argument applies at all to the lands. If I pursue the argument, it will take more time. It is true that, in Nanjinad, paddy cultivation was being carried on from ever-so-many years back. But from my own experience I may say that the agriculture has been very much deteriorated and they are not able to provide even manure. The yield from the land has been very much reduced. The cultivators in Nanjinad have to depend upon proper and timely irrigation, manure, adequate exposure to sun and heat and lastly the seasonal winds. Now there has been a break in the natural and the usual course of wind and rain and this goes a great way to tell upon the production of cultivation.

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MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): Is it not the same case in north Travancore also?

MR. M SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): I take it with great pleasure from Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai.

What I was labouring to show is not that no remission should be given to north Travancore but that the cultivation in south Travancore depends more upon nature's verdict. On one occasion the late Dewan Mr. Watts observed that it was the Nanjinad people and their agriculturists who less troubled him and his Government and they needed only good and natural season and only cared for the measurement of water in the Kodayar Dam. If their 32 ft. could be provided, they were quite satisfied; thereby he referred to the characteristics of the Nanjinad people. That means they are so much absorbed in cultivation alone and earn their livelihood by that. Now the yield of the land has become very little. There is no paddy available for sale and if at all available, it does not get any price. Not only the last crop failed, but a series of crops so much so the people there have begun to fight shy of the lands.

One minute more and I have finished. Cultivation there requires some investment. The average expense per acre for cultivation is about Rs. 35 to 40. This being the expense for a season, the ryots can expect only too small an amount to pay the heavy tax. The average tax per acre in south Travancore is Rs. 16, a feature which is not prevailing in any part of India.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandam-Rural*): Sir, since some of the members on this side have spoken, some Government member may be called upon to speak so that we might know the position of Government.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: That is a good suggestion. Any how we have got only four minutes to 1-30.

MR. K. P. KRISHNA MENON (*Parur*): I support Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai's motion for the reduction of 25 per cent. tax.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): Is the resolution being put to vote now?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr. Krishna Menon is talking now.

MR. K. P. KRISHNA MENON (*Parur*): I support Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai's amendment for the reduction of 25 per cent. tax. I do not think it is necessary to speak further as several of my friends have already spoken in detail on the subject. As regards the question put by Mr. Kunjuraman, I think even 50 per cent. is not paid by the tenants to the owners owing to the fall in price and failure of crop by the damage done by floods and heavy rains. If the concession is to be allowed, it must be extended to the Edavaka lands of Edappalli and Kilimanoor Chiefs also. With these words, I support the motion.

MR. A. EASWARA PILLAI (*Kottarakara*): I move that the question be now put.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr. N. E. Varughese was on his legs.

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MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*) : സർ, എന്റെ സ്നേഹിതൻ മി. കുഞ്ഞുകൃഷ്ണപിള്ള ഇവിടെ ഹാജരാക്കിയിട്ടുള്ള ഭേദഗതിയെ ഞാൻ ശക്തിയായ പിൻതാങ്ങുന്നു. ഈ സംസ്ഥാനത്തോട്ടുക്ക് നേരിട്ടിട്ടുള്ള സാമ്പത്തികാധഃപതനം നിമിത്തം ഉൽപന്നസാധനങ്ങളുടെ വില കുറഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നുള്ളതിൽ രണ്ടുപക്ഷത്തിനു അവകാശമില്ല. ഗവണ്മെൻറു പുറപ്പെടുവിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ഏതു പ്രൊസീഡിംഗ്സ് നോക്കിയാലും അധഃപതനം നിമിത്തം ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റേയും വരവു കുറഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നുകാണാം. ഈ കുറവിനുകാരണം നികുതിദായകന്മാക്കു വന്നിട്ടുള്ള കഷ്ടപ്പാടിനെ മാറാത്തതുതന്നെയാണു്. ഇങ്ങനെ രാജ്യം ഒട്ടുക്ക് അധഃപതനം ഉണ്ടെന്നു ഗവണ്മെൻറു ധരിച്ചിട്ടും ജനങ്ങളോടു ദാക്ഷിണ്യപൂർവം പെരുമാറുന്നു എന്നു പറയത്തക്ക യാതൊരു ലക്ഷ്യങ്ങളും ഗവണ്മെൻറു കാണിക്കുന്നുമില്ല. നെരെമറിച്ചു ഈ വിഷയത്തെപ്പറ്റി മുമ്പൊരുവസരത്തിൽ വാദപ്രതിവാദം വന്നപ്പോൾ ഗവണ്മെൻറവലംബിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള നിലയും ഇന്നു ലാമെമ്പർ ചോദിച്ച ചോദ്യങ്ങളും കൊണ്ടു ഇങ്ങനെ കഷ്ടപ്പെടുന്ന ജനങ്ങളോടു ഗവണ്മെൻറിനു യാതൊരുനുഭാവവുമില്ലെന്നു തോന്നിപ്പോകുന്നു.

The Assembly rose for lunch at 1-32 P. M.

The House re-assembled at 2-15 P. M. the Deputy President presiding.

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*) : ഔണിൽ താമസിക്കുന്ന ജനങ്ങളെക്കാൾ ഉൾനാട്ടിലെ ജനങ്ങളാണു് അധികമായി ഇന്നു് കഷ്ടത അനുഭവിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നതു്. ഉൾനാട്ടുകാരുടെ സങ്കടാവസ്ഥ മനസിലാകണമെങ്കിൽ വലിയ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ ഉൾനാടുകളിൽ സഞ്ചരിക്കണം.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*) : ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ ഉൾനാടുകളിൽ സഞ്ചരിച്ചു് ചെയ്യുന്നില്ലേ?

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*) സർക്കീട്ടുചെയ്യുന്നുണ്ടു്. പക്ഷെ അവർക്കു് സഞ്ചരിക്കുവാനും താമസിക്കുവാനും സൗകര്യമുള്ള സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ മാത്രമെ അവർ സർക്കീട്ടുചെയ്യുന്നുള്ളു. അഥവാ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ വന്നാൽതന്നെയും സാധുക്കളുടെ കഷ്ടതകളെക്കുറിച്ചു് അറിയാൻ ശ്രമിക്കുന്നില്ല. സൌകര്യമായി എവിടെ എങ്കിലും താമസിച്ചിട്ടു് മടങ്ങിപ്പോരികയും ഉൾനാട്ടിൽ ക്ഷാമം ബാധിച്ചിട്ടില്ലെന്നു് റിപ്പോർട്ടുചെയ്കയും ചെയ്യും. ഉൾനാട്ടുകാരുടെ സങ്കടം ശരിയായി മനസിലാക്കണമെങ്കിൽ ലാന്റ് റവന്യൂകമ്മീഷണർ, ഫിനാൻഷ്യൽസെക്രട്ടറി മുതലായ വലിയ

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ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ ആരേയും അറിയിക്കാതെ ആ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ സർപ്രൈസ് വിസിറ്റ് നടത്തണം. അവിടെ കാണുന്ന ജനങ്ങളോട് അവർ ചോദിക്കണം. "അല്ലയോ സഹോദരാ! നിങ്ങൾ ഈ ആണ്ടത്തെകരം കൊടുത്തുവോ" എന്ന ചോദിക്കണം.

MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Changanachery cum Peermade II*) : ഇന്നത്തെ വലിയ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ ഇങ്ങിനെ ചോദിക്കുമോ?

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*): അങ്ങിനെ ചോദിക്കണം. ഈ ആണ്ടത്തെ കരംകൊടുത്തില്ലഎന്ന പറയുകയാണെങ്കിൽ എന്തുകൊണ്ട് കൊടുത്തില്ല എന്ന് ചോദിക്കണം. വളരെ മുമ്പിലുള്ളതിനു ശേഷമാണ് കരംകൊടുത്തതെന്ന പറഞ്ഞാൽ അതിനെ നോട്ടം ചെയ്യണം.

വിദ്യാർത്ഥികളെക്കണ്ടാൽ "കുഞ്ഞേ! ഈ മാസത്തെഫീസ് കൊടുത്തുവോ" എന്ന് ചോദിക്കണം. അവരുടെ രക്ഷാകർത്താക്കന്മാരേയും കണ്ട് ഈ വിവരം ചോദിക്കണം.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*) : ഇങ്ങിനെ ചോദിച്ചില്ലെങ്കിൽ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ കുഞ്ഞുങ്ങളുടെ പഠിത്തത്തിന് വല്ല തടസ്സവും ഉണ്ടാകുമോ?

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*): ഒരു തടസ്സവും ഉണ്ടാവുകയില്ല.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*) : പിന്നെ എന്തിന് അവർ ചോദിക്കുന്നു?

MR. N E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*): അവർ ജനക്ഷേമത്തെക്കുറിച്ച ചോദിച്ച മനസ്സിലാക്കണം. അങ്ങിനെ മുന്നറിവ് കൊടുക്കാതെ ഉൾനാടുകളിൽ ചെന്ന് ചോദിക്കുന്നതായാൽ ജനപ്രതിനിധികളും ഇവിടെ പറയുന്ന കാര്യങ്ങളെല്ലാം വാസ്തവമാണെന്ന് ബോദ്ധ്യപ്പെടുന്നതാണ്.

MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Changanachery cum Peermade II*): മുന്നറിവ് കൊടുത്തിട്ട്ചെന്ന് ചോദിച്ചാലും അവർപരമാർത്ഥം പറയുകയില്ലേ?

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*) : ഗവണ്മെൻറുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ വന്നുചോദിക്കുമ്പോൾ ഇന്നവിധത്തിൽ പറയണമെന്ന് അവരെക്കൊണ്ട് പറയിപ്പിച്ചതാണെന്ന് ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാക്ക് തോന്നാതിരിക്കുവാനാണ് സർപ്രൈസ്വിസിറ്റ് നടത്തണമെന്ന് പറഞ്ഞത്.

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MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Maveiikara*): ജനപ്രതിനിധികം പറയുന്നതെല്ലാം സംശയത്തോടുകൂടിയല്ലെ ഗവണ്മെൻറ ഭാഗത്തുനിന്നും വീക്ഷിക്കുന്നത്.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I disallow Mr. Asan's question.

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*): ഇങ്ങനെ ചെയ്യുന്നപക്ഷം ജനങ്ങളുടെ യഥാർത്ഥം മനസിലാക്കാമെന്നുള്ള സംഗതിഞാൻ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനെ ഉൽബോധിപ്പിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

കരം ഇളവു ചെയ്തുകൊടുക്കുന്നപക്ഷം അതുകൊണ്ടു തക്കതായ പ്രയോജനമില്ല, ധനികന്മാർക്ക് മാത്രമെ അതുകൊണ്ട് ഗുണമുണ്ടാകുന്നുള്ളു, കരംകൊടുക്കാൻ കഴിയുന്നവരെ അതിൽനിന്നും തടയുകയാണ് ചെയ്യുന്നത്, എന്നൊക്കെ പറയുകയുണ്ടായി. അതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ച് എനിക്ക് പറയുവാനുള്ളത് സാധുക്കളെ സംബന്ധിച്ചും സാധുക്കളായ കൃഷിക്കാരെ സംബന്ധിച്ചും ഗവണ്മെൻറിൽനിന്നും യാതൊന്നും ചെയ്യുന്നില്ല എന്നുള്ളതാണ്. സാധുക്കളുടെ രക്ഷിതാക്കൾ എന്നു പറയുന്നത് ഏതാനും ധനികന്മാരെയാണ്. ഈ ധനികന്മാരുടെയിടയിൽ പണം ഉണ്ടെങ്കിൽ മാത്രമെ സാധുക്കൾക്ക് രക്ഷയുള്ളു. കരം ഇളവുചെയ്യുന്നതുനിമിത്തം വല്ല മിച്ചവുമുണ്ടാകുന്നുഎങ്കിൽ അത് സാധുക്കൾക്ക കടംവാങ്ങിക്കാം. അതുകൊണ്ട് കരം ഇളവു ചെയ്യുന്നതായാൽ ധനവാനും സാധുവിനും ഒരുപോലെ പ്രയോജനകരമായിതീരുന്നതാണ്.

MR. C. V. KUNJURAMAN (*Nominated*): വലിയ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരും കരംകൊടുക്കുന്നവരല്ലെ?

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*): അതെ.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Your time is up.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Nominated*): Sir, I am unable to support the resolution in its present form. In the first place, the resolution is not definite. The first part of the resolution says: "This Assembly recommends to the Government that 50 per cent. of the *land revenue* due for the year 1109 be remitted". It is not clear what exactly is meant by the expression "land revenue". The expression 'land revenue' includes a variety of items. It includes *Sanchayam*, *Ayacut* and a number of other items. I doubt whether the mover intends to include all of them. My doubt is strengthened by the amendment moved by Mr. Kunjukrisna Pillai. In his speech, he gave an idea of the loss of revenue that would result by accepting his amendment of 25 per cent. remission. He said that the loss would come to about Rs. 8 lakhs. The receipts under '*Ayacut*' current revenue alone come to Rs. 32 lakhs. 25 per cent. of that would come to Rs. 8 lakhs. So, if the expression "Ayacut Current Revenue" is substituted for "land revenue", I am willing to accept that part of the resolution. My second objection is that the resolution raises more than one issue. The first part of the resolution is a distinct issue. The second raises a different issue.

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MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): I have no objection to accept the amendment.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Nominated*): It is the mover of the resolution who should accept it.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): I am willing to have my amendment worded as Mr. Ramasubba Aiyar desires.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Let us hear what Mr. Ramasubba Aiyar has to say.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Nominated*): The second part of the resolution is that the arrears of revenue due at present be realised only with the last instalment of 1109 without interest. The budget will show that at the beginning of 1109 there is likely to be an accumulated arrears of Rs. 3 lakhs. The mover wants that these arrears should not be recovered till the last instalment of 1109. Since this raises a distinct issue, and since in connection with a discussion on the demand for the Land Revenue Department this House has already passed a token motion specifically recommending the putting off of all cocercive action under all heads of current revenue as well as arrears till the end of 1109". I commend for the consideration of the mover, whether the latter part of the resolution, namely "and that the arrears of revenue at present due be realised without interest only with the last instalment of 1109 may not be deleted, and whether he will accept that amendment. If, for any reason, he does not see his way to accept my amendment for moving which I would request the permission of the Chair, I would suggest that the President, in the exercise of his power, split up the resolution into two and put each part separately for being voted upon.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): I want a ruling from the Chair whether amendments could be brought before the House without previous notice.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: With the permission of the Chair, amendments could be moved.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Nominated*): That is why I sought the permission of the Chair. I knew the Rule.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): I would like to hear the amendment.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Nominated*): The first amendment is to substitute the words "Ayacut current revenue" for the words "land revenue". The second amendment is that the latter part of the resolution be omitted. Under the rules, interest at 6 per cent. is recoverable on all arrears. There is no justification for the position that this low rate of interest should not be recovered.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Is 6 per cent a low rate of interest?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Nominated*): It is sufficiently low.

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MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum— Rural*): I want to know whether the member is moving one amendment or two distinct amendments. If so, I ris e to a point of order as to whether one member can move two amendments at the same time.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Nominated*) : I only move for the modification of the resolution as it is. There is only one resolution before the House and my amendments whatever their number relate to that. What I say is that the resolution, as it is, could not be accepted because it is indefinite and because it raises more than one issue. Even if the mover would not accept my second amendment, I would propose that the resolution be split up when it is put to the vote.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Has the member moved his amendment in due form?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Nominated*): I have done so.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): Sir, I support Mr. Ramasubba Aiyar.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Are you seconding his amendment?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*) : Yes. The necessity for substituting the word "Ayacut current revenue" is clear. For, it may otherwise mean that land revenue now held over under administrative orders to be paid next year should also be reduced by 25 per cent. or 50 per cent. as the case may be. I suppose that is not the intention of the mover. Then with respect to the latter part of the resolution, it may be seen that it is in some sort of conflict with the previous portion, which is quite distinct from the subsequent portion. The latter portion reads as follows: "that the arrears of revenue at present due be realised without interest only with the last instalment of 1109". That is to say, arrears of land revenue now due will have to be carried over to the next year and to be realised certainly, but only with the last instalment of 1109. "Last instalment of 1109", I take to mean, the last instalment of revenue due in the year 1109. Now, the arrears at present due may include a revenue which is due under stay orders passed in the previous year or this year. According to the resolution, arrears would admit of no remission. Why should it be so if loss has occurred this year? If on the other hand," the land revenue for 1109" is to include the arrears also, 50 per cent, reduction has to be made in the arrears as well, as the resolution stands.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): Am I to take it that 50 per cent. reduction is to be made in the land revenue for the year 1109.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): Land revenue " due for the year 1109" may mean land revenue which would be current for the coming year, plus what is held over for 1109. In other words, it may include arrears of revenue postponed to be paid next year. Thus the proposed remission would affect the arrears according to the first part of the resolution, while according to the second part, ther, would be no room for remission. So the resolution is in self-conflicet.

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MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : May I know, are the arrears realised in 1108 but due for 1107, revenue for 1108 *i. e.*, are the arrears of the previous year, revenue realised this year?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): If it is payable this year it is revenue due this year . those realised already have ceased to be revenue due.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): If, on the other hand, it is postponed to be paid next year.

MR. P. K NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): It will be revenue due for the next year ?

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*) : How does the member distinguish revenue due in the year 1109 and for the year 1109 ?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*) : Yes, "in" relates to the period *during* which payment has to he made, the other, *'for"* relates to the period on account of which, it has to be paid. That is the distinction I draw between "in" and "for". It does not make much difference the question is, whether the amount is payable next year, no matter whether it becomes payable or is made payable. Specification of the period on account of which revenue is due is connoted by the expression "for." What is actually due for 1108 may still be held over for the next year. It then becomes due for the next year. That is the distinction so far as I can see ; that does not obviate the difficulty involved in the resolution since the difference if any is of no consequence. So, I point out that the resolution of Mr. Asan which is multiplex, is vitiated to some extent by ambiguities. Therefore the last portion may be totally omitted.

There is another reason. As Mr. T. P. Ramasubba Aiyar said, this House has already passed a motion while discussing the Budget that,for a period of six months, the arrears will have to be held over, so as to make them realisable in Dhanu next year. After this House has committed itself to that view, to ask this House to review it by means of a part resolution tacked on to a major resolution is not proper.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : Which is the major re-resolution ?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*) : That part of the resolution urging 50 per cent. reduction is the major one. The other portion is a minor part tacked on to it ; so it is in my view certainly, though not probably so in Mr. Asan's view. Thus, I am of opinion that the latter part of the resolution does not hang well together with the previous portion, implying as it does some latent contradiction and going much further than the motion already passed. Anyway, that portion should be struck out, if Mr Asan is not prepared to amend it. So, I agree with Mr. T. P. Ramasubba Aiyar's view as regards the second part of the resolution.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*) : Sir, I am concerned more with the merits of the matter than with the technicalities and the very insignificant defects that can be found on a scrutiny of the resolution as it is worded. I see no objection in accepting Mr. Ramasubba

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Aiyar's suggestion that for the words 'land revenue', 'Ayacut current revenue' may be substituted. I believe, after all, what Mr. Asan meant is only that and nothing else. As for the expression "land revenue" even the Government Benches are not consistent in its interpretation. They have been interpreting it at different times in different ways for different purposes. If it is a question of finding out the amount of land revenue and for calculating 40 per cent. of that they put one interpretation, and another, at another time. We are concerned with the *ayacut* current revenue so far as this resolution is concerned and on that basis I make my remarks.

As for the other techincal objection, even though the House once passed a motion putting off the collection of revenue for six months, I do not see any insurmountable difficulty in accepting the proposal contained in Mr. Asan's resolution, which is, more to the advantage of the tax-payer than the one already dealt with. I am confining my remarks to the merits of the matter. I was very much pained and at the same time amused at the utter lack of sympathy that was manifested in the questions that came from the official benches when some members on this side of the House were speaking. We see people suffering and very badly suffering; prices of things have gone down ; people are not able to get the return for their labour. The whole country is in the throes of a great economic crisis. Then the question comes from the official benches why don't you advocate remission of taxes ;" "why don't you do this, that and the other." Well Sir, I do not want to repeat them. They are merely the result of the utter inability of the questioners to understand the condition of things in the country or of utter callousness. The one great fact is that the officers of the Travancore Government are even today allowed to draw their pay in its entirety without any reduction whatsoever, and I say they are not able to sympathise.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : That has nothing to do with the resolution regarding land revenue remission under discussion.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum Rural*) : I say that has much to do with the resolution before the House. The Retrenchment Committee recommended—

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*) : Sir, I rise to a point of order. Mr. Thanu Pillai is transgressing the ordinary limits of procedure. It is not open to any member to controvert the President's remarks.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Mr. Thanu Pillai, you are not in order.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*) : I will make my position clear. The Retrenchment Committee recommended reduction of salaries. That is one of the means of finding funds to compensate any deficit that may arise if this concession is granted.

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DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Please confine your remarks to the resolution under debate.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*) : I was referring to the proceedings of the Retrenchment Committee to find out means of retrenchment to meet the deficit that may arise in case the resolution is accepted.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : So far as methods of raising revenue are concerned, you are in order. And when you cast observations on the mentality of officers and say that they are allowed to draw their pay even to this day without any reduction, that I say, is not proper.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): Then, I will refer to some other aspect of the question. It is surely regrettable that Government are not in a position to understand the real state of affairs in this country. When we come and tell Government the people are suffering, Government are not able to understand it. All manner of questions come from the Government Benches. To me, those questions appear to be the result of a thoroughly inadequate appreciation of the state of affairs in the country. I do not want to stress the point any further. Sir, I wish to get a definite statement from the Government Benches whether or not they fully realise that the people of the country at present stand in need of relief. A very clear statement is called for. Are the Government still in doubts? Or are they satisfied with the situation and going to remain quiet?

MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Changanachery cum Peermade II*): May I ask, are they liable to feel any need for anything?

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): An answer to this kind of question will be ruled out of order.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : You need not then answer that question.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*) : Even otherwise, I did not propose to answer, Sir.

So, as I said already, I wish to get a definite statement from the Government whether they are not satisfied that the situation demands that the agriculturists be given substantial relief by Government.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*) : May I know, who are the people that are suffering?

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*) : Will not an answer to that question also be ruled out of order?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*) : May I know, are the labourers suffering?

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*) : An answer to this kind of question may be ruled out of order

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : I think, whether the Chair is going to rule out a particular question is not a matter with which the member is concerned. It is for the Chair to decide whether a question is in order or otherwise. And so, Mr. Thanu Pillai, you are quite at liberty to answer the question. If there is any objection, the Chair will then intervene

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MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): Yes, Sir. It is the officers who get salaries quite out of proportion to the requirements of the situation that feel no difficulty now. Their resources are full. It is only the poor cultivator that stands in need of help.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): May I ask the member, are the field labourers sufferers?

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): The field labourers do not get enough by way of wages. Sir, these are very rudimentary things and I submit to the House that these questions only amuse me when they come especially from the Law Member of the House. Anyhow, the agriculturist is hard hit and he stands in need of substantial relief.

MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade II*): Do the tappers engaged in rubber tapping get anything as cooly now-a-days.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): No, he does not get. Probably he gets very little work; that is what I understand.

Now Sir, so the situation demands relief to be given. Next we have to consider the kind of relief that has to be granted. The Government say that much has been done, all that is possible has been done. We shall see what is it they have done. They have, no doubt, provided for some more loans. When the economic condition of the agriculturist is becoming worse and worse, what is the effect, I ask, of making him more and more indebted, *for the debts hereafter*. True, you give him more loans, but how does it improve his position. Is that the way to give him relief? In the first year you give him some loan; second year also you do that. Are you going to be satisfied with granting that every year? Sir, when is he expected to get out of the situation created by this kind of help, namely, of giving him more and more loans and making him more and more indebted? All his debts are heaped one upon another so that, at a future time, he will find it absolutely impossible to clear them. The time has come when he can openly tell the Government that he does not want any more loans. The situation demands that he must get substantial relief; and such relief, in one form, is remission of tax. Sir, considering the situation in the country, there is absolutely nothing fantastic even in our recommending full remission of tax for the year, but we do not go so far. We are asking for only one-fourth remission. Where is the irresponsibility or fantasticality in it?

It has been pointed out, Sir, that by granting the remission suggested by the resolution, the Government would be deprived of about eight lakhs of rupees; I can see that. But I would again ask the Government Benches 'what is this amount considering the amount of relief that the hard-hit agriculturist of the country would be getting by the grant of this remission'? Are the Government so poor as not to be able to afford this small loss in their revenue?

Sir, to come to the Retrenchment Committee again, we recommended a cut in the salaries of officers about two years ago. What have

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the Government done with regard to that? Why are they so solicitous of the fat salaries of their officers and so indifferent about the welfare of the poor agriculturist whose money is even now squeezed out of him? Where is the justification for that? Is there an iota of justification, I ask the Government Benches. If the Government had given effect to our recommendations regarding the cut in the officers' salaries, that would have brought in about three lakhs of rupees to Government every year. We recommended certain rates of reduction for the different grades of offices; now, we would go further and suggest much higher rates of reduction. The situation in the country is so bad now. Government can easily make up ten lakhs of rupees by effecting proper retrenchment. In fact, I thought the official members would voluntarily and willingly come forward and say "we are, prepared to forego a substantial portion of our salaries to help our poor brethren". Instead of that, what do we find? I do not wish to dwell upon it further. The rates of reduction in the salaries of officers recommended by the Retrenchment Committee should now be doubled or even trebled. Instead of effecting retrenchment, the Government have multiplied expenditure in various directions. Is it not because they view the situation light-heartedly that they incur unncessary expenditure and create new posts like those of the Deputy Durbar Physicians? Why not cut short expenditure and help the agriculturist who is the backbone of the country? Where is the absurdity or irresponsibility in our suggestion? When the people come forward and pray 'we are in difficulties; we cannot pay the full tax; kindly give us some small remission', the reply of Government is 'No; we cannot do it; you must pay to the last pie'. Sir, it is astonishing that the Government should take this attitude towards the people. I expect that the Government and their officers would be more reasonable.

MR. EDAVANATT S. PADMANABHA MENON (*Shertala I*): I move that the question be now put.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: There is a motion for closure. I think it is only fair that the official side is given an opportunity to explain the position of Government.

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Ag. Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Sir, the resolution moved by Mr. Asan consists of two parts. The first part says that 50 per cent. of the land revenue due for the year 1109 should be remitted; and the second part says that the arrears of revenue at present due be realised without interest only with the last instalment of 1109. In the course of the discussion, two amendments were moved. Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai moved an amendment that, instead of 50 per cent, 25 per cent. of the land revenue be remitted. Mr. Ramasubba Aiyar pointed out certain patent defects in the resolution as moved by Mr. Asan. Mr. Ramasubba Aiyar stated that 'land revenue' will include not only *Ayacut* revenue but also miscellaneous receipts such as receipts from Sanchayam and other items. He therefore moved that '*Ayacut* current revenue' be substituted for 'land revenue'. Mr. Ramasubba Aiyar also moved that the

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[Rao Sahib Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai.]

second part of the resolution be deleted. Sir, I wish to confine myself to the resolution as it stands though, the arguments I advance may apply to the amendments also.

From the speeches made on the other side of the House, I find that official members are being charged with callousness and indifference. Sir, I beg to state that the official members are as well aware of the hardships of the people as the non-official members. (*Hear, hear.*) One member even went to the extent of saying that the official members do not go about the country, but draw conclusions sitting at their tables and make whatever recommendations they like. Sir, I beg to differ from my friends on the other side. The official members, at any rate, the touring officers, do go about and do see with their own eyes, what is happening in the country.

MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Kunnattur cum Pattanapuram*): Does the Law Member also do that?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Ag. Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I said 'touring officers'; I do not think that the Law Member is a touring officer.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Did the member put to the ryots the questions suggested by Mr. Varughese? (*Laughter.*) I hope the member is a touring officer.

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Ag. Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Whether I put those questions or not, I know for myself the real hardship the ryots are suffering. So far as I am concerned, there is no necessity for making surprise visits to the rural parts and to ask the children there whether they have paid their school-fees. I know enough of the country.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Does the member grant the position taken up by us?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Ag. Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): The member will understand my position as I go on explaining it.

I only want to point out that we, on this side of the House, are as much alive to the great economic distress in the country as the representatives of the people on the other side. I may also point out that Government have really done something more than the mere distribution of loans. Mr Thanu Pillai said that we are only advancing loans and making the ryots more and more indebted. Sir, Government are not at all anxious to distribute money to the ryots and increase their burden but they have made provision for granting loans because the representatives of the people have repeatedly prayed for it.

As Mr. Sivatanu Pillai pointed out, Government have granted 25 per cent. remission in Nanjinad, for the last Kumbham crop. Government have also stayed the collection of tax due for the *kayal* and *punja*

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lands for 1108. The question of granting some remission in the case of these lands is now being very seriously considered. Government have granted 50 per cent. remission to the Kandukrishi tenants by reducing the *nirak* rate of paddy from 24 chs. to 12 chs. per *para*. In the case of arrears of tax of Re. 1 and less, Government have reduced the demand notice fee from 4 chs. to 2 chs. and. in the case of arrears of 4 chs. and less, no demand notice fee is being levied. And, ever so many applications for the extension of time, for repayment of agricultural loans, *tharavila*, etc., have been sanctioned.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): May I know the total amount of these reductions made in favour of the ryots?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Ag. Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*) The Kandukrishi concession alone comes to one-and-a-half lakhs of rupees.

MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Kunnattur* cum *Pattanapuram*); Does that benefit the Government or the general public in the land?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Ag. Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): It benefits the cultivators of those lands.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): May I know whether that remission relates to the public revenues?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Ag. Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I say, the remission has been granted to the cultivator; and the cultivator has been benefited by it.

Then, Sir, in the case of damages caused by floods, as was pointed out the other day by Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai, it is not merely 25 per cent. or 50 per cent. remission that the Government are contemplating to give. There may be cases where full remission may have to be granted.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): May I know whether the question of flood damages was raised in the course of this debate?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Ag. Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I am referring to what Government have done and what they intend doing. The department is now collecting statistics regarding the area in which crops have been completely damaged; and I may even tell the House that, where Government are convinced that the crops have been completely damaged, it is not 25 per cent. or 50 per cent. remission that they are going to grant, but it may be complete remission. (*Hear, hear.*)

MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade II*): Has the member come across gardens which have been completely damaged gardens in which all the cocoanut and arecanut trees have been completely destroyed by pestilence?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Ag. Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): There are such gardens.

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MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade II*) : Do such gardens deserve complete remission ?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Ag. Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*) : That is a question that ought to be settled during the Settlement. In some gardens, trees have been destroyed ; in others new trees have been planted. The question of remitting the tax on the former and imposing tax on the latter is a general question.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Nominated*): Should the ryots wait for remission in such cases, till the next Settlement ?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Ag. Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*) : Throughout the State there will be several gardens in which trees might have been destroyed and several others in which new trees might have come up. This is a general question which can be tackled only at the general Settlement. That is what I think.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : Can the ryots get the yield, they were getting from the lost trees, from the trees that have come into existence ?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Ag. Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*) : The yield from the new trees may make up for the loss in yield from trees which have been destroyed.

Sir, I submit I may be allowed to go on, I do not want to make a long speech. The question has been discussed threadbare on a former occasion.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : Does the member give an assurance that, in the case of failure of crops due to floods, there will be complete remission?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Ag. Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Government will consider that question sympathetically and do all that is possible.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Nominated*) : What about crops which have been partially damaged ?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Ag. Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*) : Such cases will also be considered. Government are collecting statistics as to the area where crops have been completely damaged and where they have been only partially damaged. The question, whether complete remission in the former cases and partial remission in the latter cases should not be granted, will be very seriously considered.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Nominated*) : What about the lands in which, on account of flood havoc, no cultivation can be attempted even next year ?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Ag. Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*) : The case of such lands also will be taken into consideration.

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MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Nominated*) : Might it not be taken that it is on consideration of all the facts, this variety of circumstances, that a wholesale remission is required ?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Ag. Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*) : In deserving cases, of course, Government will give remission. But the proposal that there should be a general remission is one that I cannot accept.

Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai said that the ayacut land revenue is only Rs. 32 lakhs. This is the figure given in the budget. This is the amount which the Financial Secretary hopes will be collected in 1109, But the total ayacut revenue amounts to about Rs. 36 lakhs the figure I gave last time ; 50 per cent. of this is Rs. 18 lakhs, and 25 per cent. is Rs. 9 lakhs. But Mr. Asan does not want to stop with the remission of Rs. 50 per cent. of land tax. He wants the collection of all the arrears due for the current year to be postponed till the last *kist* in 1109, and then the arrears should be collected without interest. I can assure the House that, if this resolution is given effect to, not one man will pay a cash out of the arrears till Medam 1109. What do the arrears come to ? I am afraid they will be larger than what the Financial Secretary anticipates. The balance at the end of 1108 will come to something like Rs. 10 lakhs. The arrears of 1107 alone were Rs. 7½ lakhs and out of this we have collected only Rs. 5½ lakhs.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Nominated*) : Why should the budget have been so under estimated ?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Ag. Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*) : The budget is based on collection and not on demand.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : I may tell the member that the framing of the budget does not arise in this connection.

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Ag. Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*) : The arrears of the land revenue at the end of last year were about Rs. 7½ lakhs.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*) May I know the total revenue out of which this amount fell in arrears ?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Ag. Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*) About forty lakhs.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*) : So the people are unable to pay to the extent of one-fourth ? Sir, I wish to elucidate a fact. Is it that the tax-payers are not able to pay tax up to the end of this year to the limit of one-fourth of what is due ? Am I to understand like that ?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Ag. Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*) : I know this much, Sir, that, very many people who could pay have been postponing payment, hoping that, when the Assembly meets, a resolution may be passed recommending remission and postponement and I know for certain that several of them have

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[Rao Sahib Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai.]

simply postponed payment hoping that the resolution for postponement would be passed and given effect to as was done last year. I have been told so by some of the Tahsildars.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*): Sir, is that statement made on the basis of the report of the Tahsildars?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Ag. Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Yes.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): Is that based upon any written report?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Ag. Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): No.

MR. K. A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Todupuzha* cum *Devicolam*): Has the member promised the Tahsildars that he will see the resolution is not passed?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: That question also need not be answered.

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Ag. Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Sir, if this resolution recommending fifty per cent. remission is given effect to, there will be a fall in the revenue of about Rs. 18 lakhs, and if the remission is 25 per cent., the fall will be 9 lakhs. Now add to that the arrears that will accumulate till the end of this year. I may say that this may come to about Rs. 10 lakhs.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): Assuming that these arrears have to be accounted for on the basis of inability to pay—

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: That is a hypothetical question.

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Ag. Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): These ten lakhs will not be paid till Medom 1109 and then the department will have to start coercive steps for the collection. In the course of three months it may not be possible to collect more than three or four lakhs and at the end of 1109 out of the arrears of 10 lakhs there will still remain a balance of 7 lakhs. Even if you grant 25 per-cent. or 50 per cent. remission, there will still be some arrears in the demand for the year. On the whole the total loss in revenue in 1109, if the resolution is carried out, will be not less than Rs. 30 lakhs. I only suggest to the House that they should consider the consequences of such a step. Is it possible for Government to forego a revenue of Rs. 30 lakhs in one year and then function efficiently? This is a very serious matter and the members on the other side who really represent the people should consider this matter very seriously.

MR. R. SAMBASIVA AIYAR (*Kunnatnad II*): Is there not a surplus?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Ag. Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I am saying that the current revenue is going to be down by 30 lakhs of rupees and that is a very serious matter.

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Another point that I want to bring to the notice of the House is that the resolution with the amendment of Mr. T. P. Ramasubba Aiyar, says that 25 per cent. of the *ayacut* current revenue should be remitted. Now I take it, Sir, that this will apply to the tax collected from all lands. We have in Travancore somewhere about 195,000 acres of wet lands and nearly 290,000 acres of dry lands belonging to the *Jenmies*, Devaswoms and *Madampimars*, from which Government are getting only one-eighth, one-fourth and one-half assessment. If this resolution is *to be* carried out, then it will certainly apply also to these lands belonging to the *Jenmies*, Devaswoms and *Madampimars* for which Government are not getting full assessment.

MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Kunnattur* cum *Pattanapuram*) : Do not the landowners in such cases pay *michavaram* and other dues to the *Jenmies*?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Ag. Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*) : The land holders do so.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*) : May I know the special objection in the case of such lands?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Ag. Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*) : Government are now getting only one-eighth, one-fourth and one-half of the assessment from the cultivators of such lands. This is a concession shown to these people and you want a further concession to be shown to them by giving a general remission of 50 per cent. or 25 per cent.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Nominated*) : Will the burden of having to pay tax be equally heavy on them if as suggested by Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai, the rate of assessment and *michavaram* are taken into consideration?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Ag. Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*) : Sir, they should request the *Jenmies* to give remission. Why cannot they reasonably ask the *Jenmies* to give them a remission of 50 per cent. of the *michavaram*?

Then again, Sir, the other day there was an interpellation about lands in the concession area belonging to the K. D. H. P. Company. They are now paying tax for forty-four thousand acres at half a rupee per acre. I believe that this resolution will apply to these also.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Nominated*) : Does the member seriously say that this concession will apply to those lands also, in spite of the agreement between the Company and the Government?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Ag. Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*) : It applies to all lands paying land tax.

MR. R. SAMBASIVA AIYAR (*Kunnatnad II*) : Do those lands—

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*) : May I know from the member—

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : One gentleman should speak at a time.

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MR. R. SAMBASIVA AIYAR (*Kunnatnad II*): Do those lands come under *ayacut*?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Ag. Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): They come under lands paying land revenue.

MR. R. SAMBASIVA AIYAR (*Kunnatnad II*): My question was whether they come under *ayacut*?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Ag. Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): The Financial Secretary informs me that they come under *ayacut*.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): May I know from the member whether the revenue from the lands in the possession of the K. D. H. P. Company is not in accordance with a special agreement?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Ag. Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I have already answered that question, Sir.

To me, it seems that if the resolution is carried and given effect to, it will apply to the lands with the K. D. H. P. Company also. Then, Sir, there are lands in municipal areas—

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): May I know from the member whether this will not apply to lands belonging to officials?

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): In regard to lands owned by officials, may I know whether there is any harm in reducing their pay and giving them a remission of tax?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I rise to a point of order. That question does not arise.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: It does not arise.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): Sir, the question was raised by the Law Member whether the resolution, if given effect to, would apply also to lands owned by officials? Hence the necessity for my question.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I myself did not hear it, and very few members have heard that question. So, let us ignore that. Does Mr. Kayalam Paramesvaran Pillai mean to put a question?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): No.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): Somehow I happened to hear Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai's question and so I put this question.

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Ag. Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Rent on buildings in municipal towns has not gone down and yet the concession asked for in the resolution will apply also to the land on which these buildings stand.

MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Kunnattur cum Pattanapuram*): How is the Revenue Commissioner sure that the house rent has not gone down?

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RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Ag. Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*) : That is my experience.

MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Kunnattur* cum *Pattanapuram*) : My experience is otherwise. I have got my houses in Quilon the rents for which have all gone down.

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Ag. Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*) : Sir, my point is this, that to all these classes of lands the concession sought for will apply if the resolution as it stands or as it is amended is passed.

Sir, my friend, the Law Member, put some questions to a member about the difference between rate and tax. Tax, it will be admitted, Sir, is the first charge on lands. After meeting the cultivation expenses, the landowner should naturally pay the tax due to Government. It was asked whether under the present conditions the landowner or the cultivator will get enough to meet the cultivation expenses and pay the tax. Well, Sir, some gentlemen on the other side quoted the figures in the Report of the Economic Depression Enquiry Committee. I am sorry I have not got it here. There, I think, we have shown that, even after meeting all the cultivation expenses and after paying the tax due to Government, there is still a margin of profit left in the hands of the ryot.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : Is that so in all cases ?

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam*) : What is the margin of profit ?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Ag. Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*) : The margin of profit is somewhat less than what it was a few years ago, but there is still a margin of profit left; and if you take the tax as the first charge on lands I think that, if after meeting the cultivation expenses, there is a margin of profit, it is only fair that the tax is paid.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*) : May I know the exact amount of the margin of profit ?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Ag. Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*) : I think it is given in the Report. I believe it is 20 rupees per acre in Nanjinad. After meeting the cultivation expenses and after paying the tax, the margin will be somewhere about twenty rupees per acre.

MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Kunnattur* cum *Pattanapuram*) : Is the Land Revenue Commissioner sure that there is a margin of profit in all kinds of cultivation ?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Ag. Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*) : I do not say so, but in the case of paddy and cocoanut, there is certainly this margin.

MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Kunnattur* cum *Pattanapuram*) : But they are not the only cultivations in Travancore. There is tapioca which is the occupation of the poor. Does it leave any margin of profit ?

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RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Ag. Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I have not calculated it. But from my enquiries in the course of the economic depression enquiry, I am convinced that there is a margin of profit left in the hands of most cultivators.

MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Kunnattur* cum *Pattanapuram*): What is the margin of profit ?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Ag. Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I have not got the report with me.

MR. R. SAMBASIVA AIYAR (*Kunnatnad II*): I have got it.

(The member rose from his seat to give the book to the Land Revenue Commissioner.)

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr. Sambasiva Aiyar, the rules do not allow a member getting up and giving a book to another member.

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Ag. Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Sir, my point is this. In the case of paddy and cocoanut, which are the most important crops in Travancore, even at the existing market rates, after meeting the cultivation expenses, there is enough left to pay tax.

MR. P. CHIDAMBARAM PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): May I know from the member whether he is prepared to increase the income tax ?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Ag. Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): That does not arise in this connection, Sir.

Mr. Velayudhan Pillai said that the commutation rate was eleven chackrams per *para*. That was the rate fixed during Mr. V. P. Madhava Rao's time. But at that time the landowners were paying half the tax in money and half in kind in the Trivandrum Division and three-fourth in money and one-fourth in kind in the Quilon and Kottayam Divisions. Now the commutation rate for the half share in Trivandrum Division, and for the three-fourth share in Quilon and Kottayam Divisions which was fixed at the Settlement, was six chackrams per *para*. For the remaining half share in Trivandrum Division and the quarter share in Quilon and Kottayam Divisions the rate was fixed at 11 chackrams per *para*.

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Ag. Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): The average commutation rate of paddy is therefore 8½ chs per *para* in Trivandrum and 7 1/4 chs per *para* in the Quilon and Kottayam Divisions. The present market price of paddy is certainly higher than these.

Then a word about cocoanuts. The assessment on cocoanut was fixed on the basis of the price which prevailed in 1012. In that year the price of cocoanut was only 25 chs. per hundred.

MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Kunnattur* cum *Pattanapuram*): Is the standard of living the same as in those years ?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Ag. Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): No; it has risen. We are spending a lot of money on travels by motor car and on other luxuries.

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MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : Has the cost of administration gone up?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Ag. Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*) : Yes.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : By four times?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Ag. Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*) : The rates of assessment were fixed at a time when the prices of commodities were lower than those now prevailing.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*) : What about the wages of labourers?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Ag. Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*) : They have gone down.

Sir, Government have done everything in their power to help the landowners. They have reduced the commutation rate of paddy for *kandukrishi* tax, the demand notice fees and also the tax on rubber lands, from Rs. 2 to Re- 1 per acre.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nelunangad*) : May I know the salary of the head of the department in the year 1012?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Ag. Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*) : I do not know.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : That question need not be answered.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*) : May I know whether the proportion in the fall of commodity prices and the taxable capacity of the people is the same or has the taxable capacity of the people gone down?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Ag. Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*) : I accept the opinion of the member.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Nominated*) : The member said that when Government reduced the tariff rates from 6 fanams to 3 fanams, the reduction has been to the market rate.

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Ag. Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*) : Yes.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Nominated*) : And Government are now getting the value of the paddy at the market rate?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Ag. Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*) : Yes.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Nominated*) : Will he concede that it is less than the prevailing market rate at the time?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Ag. Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*) : Yes.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Nominated*) : The present rate is about 12 chs. Will Government see that if there is no concession in this matter Government do no stand to get anything more in the matter?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Ag. Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*) : Tax-payers have to incur more expenses if payment is made in kind. They have to carry the paddy to Sirkar

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granaries for which they have to incur transport charges. This they are saving now.

MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Kunnattur* cum *Pattanapuram*) : May I know whether in spite of the reduction of tax on rubber lands from Rs. 2 to Re. 1 per acre the planters are able to pay the tax ?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Ag. Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*) : I think they will be able to pay very soon. The price of rubber has gone up a little. Tapping has been commenced in North and Central Travancore.

MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Kunnattur* cum *Pattanapuram*) : What I want to know is not whether they *will be able* to pay now but whether they *were* able to pay till now ?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Ag. Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*) : All that I have said is that Government have to reduce the tax on rubber lands from Rs. 2 to Re. 1 per acre.

MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade II*) : May I know whether all of them have begun tapping ?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Ag. Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*) : In Central and North Travancore, probably when Mr. Raman Pillai left Kottayam tapping was not begun. It is nearly two weeks since he left North Travancore. By the time he returns, he will find that planters have begun tapping.

It will be seen from what I have said that Government are not unaware of the difficulties of the ryots. They are doing all they could in their power to help the ryots. If this resolution is passed and given effect to the Government will have to lose something like Rs. 30 lakhs in the land revenue. With such a fall in revenue, how can Government function ? Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai rightly pointed out that land revenue is the only stable revenue and all others are fluctuating revenues, and if this stable revenue is to be cut down by 50 per cent ; how will Government function? I leave it to the House to answer this question.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : Sir, my resolution is to remit 50 per cent. of the land revenue and to postpone the date of collection of the arrears at present due to the last instalment of 1109. I am sure that this House will unhesitatingly carry my resolution in its present form. But I want to show that we stand together and ask from the Government a relief which is absolutely needed for the country and so I am prepared to accept the amendment of Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai to substitute 25 per cent. for 50 per cent. With regard to the amedment moved by Mr. T. P. Ramasubba Aiyar, I must say that all that I intended by land revenue is *ayacut* current revenue. That is how we usually understand it. If there is any defect in the wording it must be due to that indiscriminate application of the term 'land revenue' even by Government officers in their reports. I accept that amendment of Mr. T. P. Ramasubba Aiyar. He has suggested that the second part of my resolution must be deleted. I do not accept that. With regard to the second part an argument was put forward by

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Mr. T. P. Ramasubba Aiyar and Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai that to some extent it contradicts the view expressed by this House on a prior occasion, I am extremely sorry that the elected members of this House attempt to find certain technical defects in the resolution.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : You are not in order because the privileges and rights of members are the same whether they are elected or nominated.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : I do not say that a member has not the power to do it. I am only making an observation that my friend Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai was trying to find one or two defects which I fully believe do not exist in the resolution and find some reason for not supporting it fully. My resolution says :

> "This Assembly recommends to the Government that 50 per cent. of the land revenue due for the year 1109 be remitted and that the arrears of revenue at present due be realised without interest only with the last instalment of 1109".

The terms are specific and I draw a distinction between the two items of revenues and I do not know how a member could think that these two may be identified and argue that some confusion arises because the arrears at present due could be considered as land revenue due for 1109.

Another reason given here is that this House has expressed a view that the term for payment may be extended by 6 months and so this amendment is in conflict with that. I do not understand it. If I had asked to reduce the period, one could say that I have moved something in conflict with the prior motion. Here I am only asking for an extension of that period. I do not think it is in conflict with the previous views.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*) : Did the House say that 6 months is enough for payment ?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : Then it was stated that it is the view of this House that it must be extended by six months. It does not mean that it should not be extended any more.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*) : Why was it then not fixed ?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : That question should have been asked to the mover of the motion then.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*) : I suppose the member also voted for it.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : I voted because I was not against extending the period by six months.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Why a particular gentleman voted on a particular occasion does not arise.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : Then that question must be considered as out of order.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*) : The answer too.

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MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : What I have to say is that I do not accept the suggestion of Mr. T. P. Ramasubba Aiyar with regard to the deletion of the latter part.

With regard to the reply given by the official member, I believe him fully when he says that he knows the condition of the people in the country as much as the elected representatives do. But I am extremely sorry that a member who knows so fully the real difficulties of the people has to stand up and advance arguments which could not be accepted by any of us on this side of the House. The official member was saying that the tax is the first charge upon the land and so it should be paid. That is not an argument which should come from a Government member. We know that it is the first charge. That is the very reason why we come and now ask the Government to give us some relief. It was made a first charge to see that the Government realises it promptly without difficulties. It was to help the administration of the State that this was allowed as the first charge. That is no argument for the Government member to refuse to accept my resolution.

Then one or two small arguments were introduced to prejudice this side of the House. The Government member said that the K. D. H. P. Company had some acres of taxable land and the tax on that also will have to be reduced. He also said that the house rents have not gone down. If by a concession given by the Government these individual companies are to be benefited, we do not at all grudge.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Nominated*) : Is it not open to the Government to exclude this concession to the K. D. H. P. Company because they are governed by a specific contract?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : Government are fully competent. This is only a recommendation of this Assembly.

The official member was regreting that even with regard to the 1/8 of the tax realised on some *Jenmam* lands this concession has to be extended. The ryot has to pay the *Jenmi michavaram* and other dues. From the *Jenmi* he could not get so much concession. It depends upon the whim of the *Jenmi*. I think Government occupies a much higher position than the *Jenmi*. Even if the *Jenmi* does not show any concession, it is the duty of the Government to see that these concessions are given to the people.

MR. T. S. JAYANTAN NAMBOOTIRI (*Travancore Jenmies, North*) : ജന്മിമാർ ചില ആനുകൂല്യങ്ങളൊക്കെ ചെയ്യുകൊടുക്കാറില്ലേ?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Yes. The *Jenmi* has a heart and so he will show concessions.

Then Dr. Kunjan Pillai was saying that some remission has been given to Nanjinad. That is a reason for extending the concession to other parts also. The Nanjinad people themselves are pleading that that concession is quite inadequate and they are praying for more.

With regard to the commutation rate for Kandukrishi tax, I think the Official Member was not well-advised in bringing forward that argument. The Kandukrishi commutation rate was fixed at 6 fanams when the price was 7 fanams. Now the price of paddy is 7 or 8

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chackrams. Government have now fixed the commutation rate at 12 chackrams. The Official Member says that Government have shown a concession by fixing it at 12 chackrams. It is the duty of Government to reduce it still further to 8 or 9 chackrams per *para*. But this House cannot in any way ask for a reduction in that because that item has been removed to another head in the budget; therefore a reduction of that will not affect the general revenues of the State.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): What does the member mean by State? Is it people?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Yes, the people.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): Does the member know the extent of Kandukrishi holdings in the State?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): If the member does not know, he may refer to the Land Revenue Manual.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): I am asking whether the member knows.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Yes, I know it. I thought the member wanted to know it.

The Kandukrishi tax goes to another head altogether.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): If a reduction is made in the Kandukrishi tax, will it not benefit the tenants?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Surely.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): Would it not be a benefit conferred upon a portion of the people of the State?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Yes.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Nominated*): Was it not the contention of the member that the reduction of the commutation rate has not gone sufficiently far?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): It does not go sufficiently far.

Dr. Kunjan Pillai was terrifying the House by saying that if this reduction is accepted, the revenue next year will go down by Rs. 30 lakhs. I am unable to understand the arithmetic of his calculation. Either we must believe Dr. Kunjan Pillai, or we must believe the budget. If we believe Dr. Kunjan Pillai, we must disbelieve the budget. Now we find that the revenue to be derived next year under current *Ayacut* is Rs. 32 lakhs, of which Rs. 1,90,000 will go to the Kandukrishi Fund. Then we have only Rs. 30 lakhs, 25 per cent. of which will come to about Rs. 7½ lakhs. So even if effect is given to the resolution, it will not in any way jeopardize the administration. It will be a matter of grace to Government, if they accept it now, since about 8 days back a cut motion was passed in this House. With these words, I press both parts of the resolution to vote. I request the Chair to split the resolution, as desired by Mr. Ramasubba Aiyar.

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MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Kunnattur* cum *Pattanapuram*) : Is this remission to be made only after deducting the Devaswom fund ? I think the Devaswom Fund goes out of this Rs. 30 lakhs.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : It is from the Rs. 32 lakhs that this has to be reduced.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*) : Sir, I am glad that the member has accepted my amendment.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Since you are the mover of the amendment I wanted to know whether you have anything to say about Mr. Asan's idea of spliting up the resolution.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon* I) : I have no objection to split it if it is necessary and if there is any confusion. So far as I am concerned, there is no such confusion. But I have absolutely no objection to split the amendment. There is a substantial conflict because there is a change from three months to six months. But the main idea underlying the resolution is to help the ryots. That is the subject on which we have passed a cut motion.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : It is only with regard to the spliting up that I wanted to ask you.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*) : Have I not got a right of reply ?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : You have no right of reply now. Has the official member got to say anything ?

RAO SAHIB DR N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Ag. Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*) : I have nothing to say.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : I will first put Mr. Ramasubba Aiyar's amendment.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : I have accepted his amendment about *Ayacut* current revenue.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Nominated*) : But he has not accepted the second part of my amendment.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : I beg to submit a point of order. If the resolution is split up into two, then Mr. Ramasubba Aiyar's amendment would only amount to opposing the second part of the resolution.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : I will split the resolution into two and put them to vote separately. The first part of Mr. Asan's resolution runs as follows :

> 'This Assembly recommends to the Government that 50 per cent of the land revenue due for the year 1109 be remitted."

An amendment was accepted by the mover, and this portion of the resolution, as amended, would run as follows :—

"This Assembly recommends to the Government that 25 per cent of the Ayacut current revenue for the year 1109 be remitted."

The amended resolution was then put and carried.

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MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Changanachery cum Peermade II*) : I demand a poll.

A poll was taken with the following result :

AYES—47.

1	Mr.	T. K. Alexander	25	Mr.	K. Mahomed
2	,,	S. Chattanatha Karayalar	26	,,	M. N. Nair
3	,,	P. Chidambaram Pillai	27	,,	P. C. Narayanan Bhattatiripad
4	,,	A. S. Damodaran Asan	28	,,	K. A. Narayana Pillai
5	,,	A. Easwara Pillai (Kalkulam II)	29	,,	Pacode A. Narayana Pillai
6	,,	A. Easwara Pillai (Kottarakara)	30	,,	P. K. Narayana Pillai
7	,,	K. R. Elenkath	31	,,	S. Nilakanta Pillai
8	,,	S. J. Nair	32	,,	K. Padmanabhan
9	,,	M. K. Janardana Kamath	33	,,	Edavanatt S. Padmanabha Menon
10	,,	T. S. Jayantan Nambootiri	34	,,	Kainikkara M. Padmanabha Pillai
11	,,	N. John Jospeh	35	,,	Changanachery K. Parameswaran Pillai
12	,,	T. C. Joseph	36	,,	V. Ramakrishna Panickar
13	,,	K. C. Karunakaran	37	,,	R. Raman Pillai
14	,,	T. T. Kesavan Sastri	38	,,	T. P. Ramasubba Aiyar
15	,,	K. M. Krishnan	39	,,	R. Sambasiva Aiyar
16	,,	K. P. Krishna Menon	40	,,	K. Sankaran
17	,,	Pottayil S. Krishna Panickar	41	,,	R. Sivasubrahmanya Nadar
18	,,	E. V. Krishna Pillai	42	,,	M. Sivatanu Pillai
19	,,	N. K. Krishna Pillai	43	,,	A. Thanu Pillai
20	,,	T. Krishna Pillai	44	,,	P. K. Thomas
21	,,	K. Kunjukrishna Pillai	45	,,	N. E. Varughese
22	,,	E. K. Kunjuraman	46	,,	V. K. Velappan Nair
23	,,	K. M. Kuriakose	47	,,	T. P. Velayudhan Pillai
24	,,	M. K. Madhavan Pillai			

NOES—14.

1	Mr.	C. V. Chandrasekharan	8	Mr.	B. Narayana Pillai
2	,,	Antony George	9	,,	G. Nilakantan
3	,,	K. George	10	,,	R. Nilakanta Pillai
4	,,	L. H. Jacob	11	,,	N. K. Padmanabha Pillai
5	Rao Sahib	Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai	12	,,	Kayalam Parameswaran Pillai
6	Mr.	C. V. Kunjuraman	13	,,	T. C. Thommen
7	,,	C. O. Madhavan	14	,,	John Whiteley Tolson

NEUTRALS—3.

1	Mr.	N. Abdur Rahiman Sahib	3	Mr.	M. Mahomed Haneef
2	,,	V. T. Chacko			

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DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The second part of the resolution runs as follows:

"That the arrears of revenue at present due be realised without interest only with the last instalment of 1109."

Mr. Ramasubba Aiyar's amendment is that this portion may be deleted.

MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Kunnattur cum Pattanapuram*): Is it the resolution or the opposition that is going to be put to the vote?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr. Ramasubba Aiyar's idea is that the resolution should be split up into two parts and be put to vote. The first part has been voted upon. And I am now going to put the second part to vote.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*): When the resolution is split up into two, then Mr. Ramasubba Aiyar's amendment does not stand. He only opposes it.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I do not think there is any difficulty. Mr. Ramasubba Aiyar's amendment is that the second part be deleted.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Heaa Sirkar Vakil*): The first portion of the resolution has been put; similarly the second portion may also be put.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Yes.

The second portion of the resolution was then put and carried.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): I demand a poll.

The House divided as follows:

AYES—33.

1	Mr.	P. Chidambaram Pillai	17	Mr.	M. N. Nair
2	,,	A. S. Damodaran Asan	18	,,	K. A. Narayana Pillai
3	,,	A. Easwara Pillai (Kalkulam II)	19	,,	Pacode A. Narayana Pillai
4	,,	A. Easwara Pillai (Kottarakara)	20	,,	S. Nilakanta Pillai
5	,,	S. J. Nair	21	,,	K. Padmanabhan
6	,,	M. K. Janardana Kamath	22	,,	Edavanatt S. Padmanabha Menon
7	,,	T. S. Jayantan Nambootiri	23	,,	Kainikkara M. Padmanabha Pillai
8	,,	K. M. Krishnan	24	,,	Changanachery K. Paramesvaran Pillai
9	,,	K. P. Krishna Menon	25	,,	V. Ramakrishna Panickar
10	,,	Pottayil S. Krishna Panickar	26	,,	R. Raman Pillai
11	,,	E. V. Krishna Pillai	27	,,	K. Sankaran
12	,,	N. K. Krishna Pillai	28	,,	R. Sivasubrahmanya Nadar
13	,,	T. Krishna Pillai	29	,,	M. Sivatanu Pillai
14	,,	K. Kunjukrishna Pillai	30	,,	A. Thanu Pillai
15	,,	M. K. Madhavan Pillai	31	,,	N. E. Varughese
16	,,	K. Mahomed	32	,,	V. K. Velappan Nair
			33	,,	T. P. Velayudhan Pillai

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NOES—26.

1	Mr.	T. K. Alexander	14	Mr.	E. K. Kunjuraman
2	,,	V. T. Chacko	15	,,	K. M. Kuriakose
3	,,	C. V. Chandrasekharan	16	,,	C. O. Madhavan
4	,,	S. Chattanatha Karayalar	17	,,	K. Madhavan
5	,,	Antony George	18	,,	B. Narayana Pillai
6	,,	K. George	19	,,	P. K. Narayana Pillai
7	,,	L. H. Jacob	20	,,	G. Nilakantan
8	,,	N. John Joseph	21	,,	R. Nilakanta Pillai
9	,,	T. C. Joseph	22	,,	N. K. Padmanabha Pillai
10	,,	K. C. Karunakaran	23	,,	Kayalam Parameswaran Pillai
11	,,	T. T. Kesavan Sastri	24	,,	T. P. Ramasubba Aiyar
12	Rao Sahib	Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai	25	,,	P. K. Thomas
13	Mr.	C. V. Kunjuraman	26	,,	T. C. Thommen

NEUTRALS—5.

1	Mr.	N. Abdur Rahiman Sahib	4	Mr.	R. Sambasiva Aiyar
2	,,	M. Mahomed Haneef	5	,,	John Whiteley Tolson
3	,,	P. C. Narayanan Bhattatiripad			

The resolution, as amended, was declared carried.

The following resolution was not moved :—

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*) : This Assembly recommends to the Government that immediate steps be taken for more efficient and useful management of the Carpentry and Smithery School at Quilon.

NIGHT SCHOOLS.

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*) : Sir, I beg to move the following resolution:

"This assembly recommends to the Government that night schools be established in the important towns imparting a prescribed course of general education to skilled artisans residing in them.

No system of education of a civilized country can be said to be perfect which makes no provision for the education of the adult population. A system like ours which does not make provision for compulsory education must be considered to be imperfect. There are in this country a huge army of expert labourers from all castes and communities working in Government institutions and factories and firms owned by foreigners and natives. These men who are expert mechanicians and master craftsmen suffer from one defect. Because they have no general education, they always remain as head coolies and nothing more. European countries, both for ordinary and skilled labourers, there are night schools wherein they are taught the general principle of their profession. The system of education we follow is only a true adaptation of the west. Then why not Travancore adopt that night school system also? If at all we begin to adopt a system, we must do it in its entirety and in all its aspects.

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